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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you think it would be a good idea for CUC to go into receivership?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

New Cops
A total of 38 cadets graduated yesterday after undergoing six months of training.

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65th Memorial
Hiroshima marks its biggest memorial yet, the first to be attended by the U.S.

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Solo Voyage
14-year-old Laura Dekker hopes to become the youngest person to solo around the world.

YOUNGSTYLE...Page 18

Tinian runs out of gas supply

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian motorists may have to cut back on unnecessary driving this weekend after the gasoline supply on the island ran out late yesterday morning because the delivery didn't come on time.

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With the Little Boy assembly pit for a background, a Blue Knight honor guard from the 36th Wing, Guam, plays taps on her bugle at the exact time the atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima 65 years ago.
JAIME R VERGARA

Memorial service at Tinian's A-bomb assembly pit

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Participants in the two-day Manhattan Project Symposium held at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino were joined by island residents yesterday at the atomic bomb assembly pits in North Field Tinian to memorialize the 65th anniversary of the dropping of the first A-bomb used in combat over Hiroshima.

In a brief ceremony littered with moments of high drama, a

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CNMI and U.S. Air Force officials, assisted by members of Tinian's Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, lay a wreath at one of the markers of the North Field A-bomb assembly site.
JAIME R VERGARA

ADB projects modest growth for Pacific economies. PAGE 5
RP suffers brain drain as best workers go abroad. PAGE 12

The Manhattan Project and Tinian

Organizer for the Tinian Symposium for the Manhattan Project, Dan Farrell intones the larger significance and profound remembrance of the A-bomb dropping from Tinian to Hiroshima, as a gut-wrenching civilizational, and for many, a personal turning point.

JAIME R VERGARA

Vice Chief of Staff, USAF, Gen. Howie Chandler grace the Symposium banquet dinner as its keynote speaker.

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Tinian acting mayor Patrick Manglona welcomes the gathered assembly during the memorial service for the WWII war in the Pacific at the A-bomb pits in North Field.

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The two accompanying English teachers of Hiroshima's Koryo High School pose before the wreath laid for "Peace in the Pacific" at the Aug. 6 Tinian A-bomb assembly pit memorial service.

JAIME R VERGARA

Pacific Air Force Command Gen. Douglas Owens offers his remarks on the continuing role of the USAF and its participation in the events of Aug. 6, 1945.

Joylene King gives an *a cappella* rendition of the national and Commonwealth anthems, after the Blue Knights honor guards presented the colors, and before uniformed personnel attending the memorial service for the War in the Pacific.

JAIME R VERGARA

Los Alamos Laboratory official Dr. Roger Meade and Los Alamos resident and author Nancy Bartlit present a Los Alamos city resolution inviting Tinian to a sister-city relationship with Los Alamos to acting mayor Patrick Manglona.

JAIME R VERGARA

CNMI officials and other dignitaries in solemn and reverent attention during the Tinian Symposium's memorial service.

JAIME R VERGARA

Students of Koryo High School, Hiroshima, are joined by USAF Generals Douglas Owens and Howie Chandler before the start of the memorial service at the A-bomb assembly pits on Tinian's North Field

JAIME R VERGARA

Two USAF airmen enter the Little Boy memorial assembly pit to drop coins that will remain in perpetuity at the famed marker, now a candidate to be a part of the historic park heritage being mulled in connection with Manhattan project.

JAIME R VERGARA

Local

38 cadets graduate from Police Academy

» Peter Mario Cruz of Tinian is class valedictorian

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

After undergoing six months of training, 38 cadets graduated yesterday from the 20th Police Academy Cycle, with Peter Mario L. Cruz of Tinian being named class valedictorian.

The 37 new police officers are expected to work at the Department of Public Safety on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota starting tomorrow, Sunday. One cadet is a conservation officer from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Division of Fish & Wildlife.

Gigo C. Tomokane was the class salutatorian; Christopher S. Santos was voted as the most physically fit; and Israel M. Deleon was named top gun. All three are from Saipan.

Of the 37 new officers, four are from Tinian, five from Rota, and 28 from Saipan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Cadets sit on stage during the graduation ceremony held yesterday for the 20th Police Academy Cycle at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

During the graduation ceremony held at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial urged the new officers to uphold the highest standards of ethics and professionalism in carrying out their duties.

"I want to thank the Department of Public Safety's management and training personnel for their efforts to produce such fine graduates despite our limited resources. I am confident that these new graduates will serve our community well," Fitial said.

In his opening remarks, Police Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela reminded the new officers that the badge they now wear is a faith entrusted to them as public servants.

"That badge gives you the authority to enforce the law and make arrests. Don't abuse that authority," Tudela said.

He said the training program gave the new officers the necessary skills and knowledge they will need when they enforce and uphold the law but he stressed that this is just basic knowledge.

"Performing your duty out in public will provide you with greater experience and real-life situations," Tudela said. "With your graduation today, it signifies your dedication and determination to serve the public."

Valedictorian Cruz said it feels good to be chosen as the top of the class as he was not even aiming to be on the top 10.

"I just worked and studied hard," said the 21-year-old Cruz.

The new police officers from Saipan are Flora B. Aguon, Anthony DLG. Alepuyo, Jeffrey A. Bahillo, Raymond B. Borja, Ray Anthony R. Cabrera, JB K. Cepeda, Jonathan P. Cepeda, Steven N. Dela Cruz Jr., Israel M. De Leon, Danny Joe O. Fitial, Steventy F. Galbandag, Rhonda C. John, Therese S. Kintoki, Myron O. Laniyo, James F. Mangtamag, Adrian F. Mendiola, Francis P. Memog, Olympio S. Muna, Jeffrey J. Norita, Stanley K. Patris, Rick A. Reyes, Rudolph C. Sablan Jr., Christopher S. Santos, Pete S. Seman, Tyrone D. Teregeyo, Gigo C. Tomokane, James F. Waayam, and Steven F. Waayngin.

From Tinian, the four graduates are Michael L. Barcinas, Kerry M. Borja, Peter Mario L. Cruz, and Eugene E. Mendiola.

From Rota, the five new officers are Elton T. Barcinas, Nathan A. Barcinas, Clair A. Calvo, Joseph Q. Camacho, and Chloe B. Hocog.

The conservations officer is Ray Anthony R. Cabrera of Saipan.

Capt. Pete A. Leon Guerrero is the officer-in-charge of the DPS Academy.

Mariner gets 3-year probation for misuse of a federal license

The federal court has imposed a three-year probation sentence on a mariner who altered his expired U.S. Merchant Marine Officer's license.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge David O. Carter ordered Drayton C. Reeves to pay a $100 special assessment fee and barred him from drinking any alcohol while aboard a fishing vessel.

Carter said Reeves shall submit to substance abuse evaluation for alcohol dependence.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler recommended a sentence of five years probation, while attorney Loren Sutton, counsel for Reeves, asked for two years of probation.

The U.S. government had charged Reeves with misuse of a federal license and false statement for altering his expired U.S. Merchant Marine Officer's license to create an impression he was still a U.S. Coast Guard-licensed master.

Reeves signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government and pleaded guilty in January to misuse of a federal license.

The prosecution stated that Reeves committed false statement on July 28, 2009, when, during an interview with the U.S. Coast Guard on Saipan, he told a Coast Guard officer that he had a valid merchant marine officer license. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Election board certifies 4 candidates for delegate

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission board certified yesterday four names as official candidates in the November election for a CNMI delegate.

CEC executive director Robert A. Guerrero said Juan Nekai Babauta from the Republican Party, Jesus Camacho Borja from the Democratic Party, Joseph James Norita Camacho from the Covenant Party, and independent candidate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan have all met the requirements of the law and are now declared official candidates for the delegate position.

Members adopted the decision in a resolution.

Three legislative initiatives were also approved for placement on the ballot and each were adopted in separate resolutions.

All four resolutions, upon signing, were transmitted to the director of Personnel, secretary of Finance, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of the Public Auditor.

The three legislative initiatives that will be ratified by voters with either a yes or no vote are:

- House Legislative Initiative 16-18, which authorizes the Department of Public Lands to reserve up to 20 percent of its operational expense for land compensation payments;
- House Legislative Initiative 16-13, which prohibits any increase in retirement benefits until all government obligations to the NMI Retirement Fund have been satisfied or the system is fully funded; and
- House Legislative Initiative 17-1, which wants to add a new Section 10 to Article X of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the Commonwealth to issue a pension obligation bond to pay off its debt with the Retirement Fund.

The first two initiatives were passed in October 2009 while the last one was transmitted Wednesday to the commission.

The commission expects an increase in the number of voters for this year's special election. From just over 16,000 voters in the last general election in 2009, the commission anticipates more than 18,000 in the Nov. 2 poll due to new registrants.

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$1M water bottling firm soft opening by end of August

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that a $1 million water bottling business on Rota is scheduled to have a soft opening by the end of this month.

"Hopefully, everything will go smoothly so that they can open by end of August. This will be a big help not only to the Rota economy, but also to the CNMI," Ayuyu told Saipan Tribune in an interview at the Department of Public Safety's 20th Police Academy Graduation.

The soft opening comes almost a year after Rota Resort & Country Club owner Hee Kyun Cho announced the water bottling facility to be located at the hotel area.

The water bottling facility was initially eyed to open in February or March this year, but was pushed back to end of this month.

Cho has said that the initial investment for the facility is $1 million but if successful, the investment may grow to $10 million to $15 million, employing over 100 people.

Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) also pre-filed a bill seeking to impose a tax on water processed for commercial sale on Rota.

Santos's House Bill 17-92 proposes the imposition of a 10 percent ad valorem tax on water processed on Rota for commercial sale, except for water processed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The bill requires the Department of Finance secretary to establish a special account into which funds collected will be deposited.

Funds collected from this tax are subject to appropriation by the Rota Legislative Delegation and to be used for municipal scholarships and medical referrals.

The bill said that minerals, including water, harvested on Rota belong collectively to the people of Rota who are of Northern Marianas descent.

"As a result, the Commonwealth Legislature finds it reasonable that as owners of such minerals, the Northern Marianas descent residents of Rota are entitled to reasonable compensation from the proceeds made on the processing and sale of such minerals," it added.

PUBLIC HEARING Senate President Paul Manglona, right, gestures during the public hearing held Wednesday night at the Kagman Community Center as, from left, Sens. Ralph Torres and Juan Ayuyu listen. The Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies, chaired by Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), wrapped up Wednesday night its series of public hearings to gauge public sentiment on the Interior report recommending improved immigration status for alien workers. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Jurors in Leon Guerrero's case begin deliberations

The 12 jurors in the ongoing trial of Christopher Leon Guerrero, a veteran police officer being charged with extortion in federal court, began their deliberations yesterday.

With no verdict arrived at yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge David O. Carter directed the jurors to continue their deliberations on Monday at 8:30am.

Yesterday afternoon, the jurors informed the court that they wanted to request some documents that they intend to review on Monday. Carter granted the request.

Among the documents the jurors want to review are portions of the transcribed testimonies of cooperating witness Tiger and Police Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar.

Tiger is the U.S. government's cooperating source who allegedly offered the $1,000 bribe money to Leon Guerrero in exchange for the release of two cars and items belonging to him (Tiger) and his friend.

Rangamar was the then chief of the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Division. When the alleged bribery happened, Rangamar was Leon Guerrero's superior. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Bordallo returns from delegation visit to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) returned to Washington, D.C. yesterday after a five-day fact finding mission to Afghanistan and Bahrain.

The congressional delegation was led by Rep. Gene Taylor of Mississippi, and also included Reps. Joe Wilson of South Carolina, Mike Conaway of Texas, Glenn Nye of Virginia, and Mark Critz of Pennsylvania.

The congressional delegation met with Earl Anthony Wayne, U.S. Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan, Gen. David Petraeus, commander of the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan, and several other ranking military officials to discuss the economic, political, and security progress in Afghanistan.

While in Bahrain, the delegation received an operational update from U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain Adam Ereli and Vice Admiral Mark Fox, Navy Central Command, commander of the Fifth Fleet.

The delegation also met with His Highness Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the crown prince and deputy supreme commander of the Bahrain Defense Forces. Bordallo also met with servicemembers from Guam at various times during the trip.

"I always appreciate an opportunity to visit our men and women in uniform from Guam who are serving in harms way," said Bordallo. "I am very proud of our servicemembers' dedication and professionalism, and I told them that the people of Guam and our nation appreciate their sacrifices. Furthermore, the trip was helpful in better understanding the needs of our servicemembers who are serving in Afghanistan. Our delegation was provided with insightful briefs about the progress we are making at routing out the extreme elements of the Taliban and bringing greater stability to this region. The Obama Administration is putting the necessary resources into Afghanistan to meet our objectives. We must continue to have close oversight of these activities to make sure we are ultimately successful." ***(PR)***

MEMORIAL

From Page 1

stunning moment of reverence was occasioned when "taps" was sounded in an ambience where only the sound of the wildlife in the surrounding habitat could be heard.

Prior to that, CNMI historian Dan Farrell extemporaneously reflected in poetic and lyrical tones the significance and symbology of the two pits that assembled the uranium bomb "Little Boy" and plutonium bomb "Fat Man" into the annals of human history, radically shifting the course and confluence of many lives.

U.S. Air Force Gen. Douglas Owens' remarks affirmed Farrell's sentiments when he declared that the happening initiated from Tinian 65 years ago changed the course of U.S. history, determining national policies and programs, including those of the Air Force in the Pacific.

A wreath-laying ceremony at one of the site's markers, for "Peace in the Pacific," was made by the two U.S. Air Force generals: Gen. Howie Chandler, Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force based in the Pentagon (he delivered the keynote address during the Symposium dinner banquet at the Dynasty's ballroom), and Gen. Douglas Owens of the Pacific Air Force based in Hickam in Hawaii. The two officers were flanked by acting Tinian mayor Patrick Manglona and CNMI Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider, and assisted by members of Tinian's Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps honor guards.

Also present at the morning occasion were six students from Japan's Koryo school, accompanied by two teachers and hosted by the local high school's Keiko Manglona, who also annually take Tinian students to Japan.

One of the veterans present during the 60th anniversary five years ago recalled the furor surrounding the possibility of a delegation of former Japanese imperial forces and visiting American veterans being in the same place at the same time. He recalled that left to their own devices, the veterans from both sides managed to meet congenially to toast their sake/beer one to another.

The solemn memorial service tone was facilitated by the invocation of Pastor Jim Howard of Grace Christian, and the reflective welcoming remarks of acting Tinian mayor Patrick Manglona, graced by the pristine *a cappella* rendition of the CNMI and American anthems by Joylene King and the smart and precision marching of the Blue Knights Honor Guard of the Guam-based USAF 36th Wing in the presentation of the colors.

The memorial ceremony ended the two-day commemoration on Tinian. The day before, five experts discussed the making of the atomic bombs and the backstory of what had been codenamed "The Manhattan Project."

USCIS extends closing date for National Children's Art Project

» Deadline for submitting artwork extended by two weeks

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced yesterday that it will extend the closing date for the USCIS National Children's Art Project until Aug. 30, 2010, extending the submission deadline by two weeks.

On June 14, 2010, USCIS director Alejandro Mayorkas announced the "We Are America" National Children's Art Project in collaboration with public libraries and other community-based organizations serving America's immigrant communities. USCIS continues to encourage children across the United States to create artwork in response to an important prompt: "People have come from all over the world to become Americans. Why does that make us great?" USCIS will display the children's artwork in USCIS offices around the country.

For more information on the USCIS National Children's Art Project, visit www.uscis.gov/childrensartproject. ***(USCIS)***

GAS

From Page 1

The ship carrying the supply is expected to arrive on Tinian from Guam on Monday morning.

Three Mobil gasoline stations on the island had to put up a sign that reads, "Our gas supply will resume Aug. 9, 2010 after lunch."

Senate Vice Pesident Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said the diesel supply on Tinian remains stable, and this means that power plants will still be running.

"It's an unfortunate situation but hopefully, the supply will return to normal on Monday. We ask for everyone's patience. We also ask them to conserve gas during the weekend," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment last night.

This is the first time in a long time that Tinian has experienced a gasoline shortage.

Hofschneider said he spoke with Mobil Oil Guam, Marianas and Micronesia Inc. lead country manager Gennaro Cioffi about the gasoline shortage on Tinian.

"Based on my phone conversation with Mr. Gennaro, there were a few factors that contributed to the delay in the arrival of the supply to Tinian. He said the ship encountered rough seas on its way to Pohnpei from Guam. And when the ship reached Pohnpei, it had to wait for two more days because there were two other ships unloading. That same ship carrying gasoline is expected to arrive on Tinian Monday morning," he said.

Joel Ignacio, an employee at one of the gasoline stations in San Jose, said the regular gasoline shortage began shortly before lunch hour yesterday.

"That's because the bulk plant didn't have delivery on time because of the weather. The supply may come in on Monday, depending on the weather. The ship had difficulty getting the supply here," he said in a phone interview.

Public Safety Director for Tinian Ray Pangelinan, in a separate phone interview, said his office received notification that there were only around 200 gallons of regular gasoline remaining at 7am yesterday.

He said the Department of Public Safety-Tinian immediately sent all its four patrol cars and two other service vehicles to the gasoline station to be filled up.

"Our patrol cars will have adequate amount of gas until Tuesday. We're hoping the normal supply to the island will resume before that," Pangelinan said.

Ambulance trucks and fire trucks run on diesel, so emergency services are not expected to be affected by the gasoline shortage.

Regular gasoline on Tinian costs $4.42 a gallon, while diesel is $4.38 a gallon.

Hofschneider, chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, said Mobil delivers gasoline to Tinian every 31 days, although the island's maximum storage capacity is good for 45 days.

He said that fuel tanks on Tinian had been undergoing maintenance in the last couple of weeks so the gasoline stations had to scale back on fuel storage.

ADB projects modest growth for Pacific economies

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The economies of the Pacific region, led by resource-rich East Timor, are projected to expand 4.3 percent this year but inflation remains a concern, driven by high fuel and utility prices, the Asian Development Bank said Monday.

Excluding East Timor and Papua New Guinea, growth in the 12 Pacific islands is seen unchanged at 0.5 percent, while projections were downgraded for the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga and Vanuatu because of weaker than expected tourism growth outside the Fiji Islands.

East Timor's growth projection last year has been changed upward from between 6 percent and 8 percent to 12.2 percent, led by continued increases in government expenditure and agriculture production—a result of higher yield seeds and use of fertilizers.

But like elsewhere in the region, inflation is on the rise, climbing up to 6.6 percent by June, the ADB said. The Pacific is particularly vulnerable to rising oil prices as it pays more for fuel than any other region.

"Fuel and utility prices are too high in most Pacific countries," said Robert Wihtol, head of the ADB's Pacific Department.

Meanwhile, Australian tourism to Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu has declined as the Fiji Islands regained its previous market share. Overall, departures from Australia to the Pacific were up by about 27 percent from January to May compared with the same months in 2009. The Fiji Islands recorded the sharpest rise at 49 percent.

Departures from New Zealand to the Pacific also increased by about 9 percent in the first five months of the year, while Japanese tourism to Oceania and to the northern Pacific also showed some improvement after declining over the past two years.

The 14 nations include East Timor, Marshall Islands, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, the Cook Islands, Tonga, Samoa, Palau, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, the Federated States of Micronesia and Nauru.

Guam flooded with scam phone offers

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is warning the public about fraudulent telephone solicitations targeting residents of Guam that offer $10,000 cash grants in exchange for $100 advance fees.

According to Charlene Thornton, special agent-in-charge of the Honolulu FBI office, the fraudulent phone offers attempt to lure potential victims into sending Western Union wire transfers in exchange for much larger cash grants or prizes—a practice that does not exist in reality.

No financial loss has been reported to date among Guam residents, but the FBI office in Guam has received multiple complaints concerning this scam warranting this public advisory, said Thornton.

"Advance fee schemes are a basic form of telemarketing fraud. The best defense is to tell the caller you aren't interested and that you want to be removed from their list. These scammers can be quite persuasive, so don't be afraid to just hang up on them," said Thornton. "Please be cautious of any unsolicited phone call offering a deal too good to be true." ***(DOJ)***

Pacific Lineman Training Program is extended 1 year with $439.5K grant

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Pacific Lineman Training Program has been awarded a $439,500 grant that will extend the program for an additional year.

Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta of the Department of the Interior signed the award to provide a new class of participants with valuable training recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor as equivalent to professional linemen certification programs in the U.S. mainland.

Participating utilities from each island will provide $406,070 in combined matching contributions; bringing the total funding resulting from this grant to $845,570.

"The Pacific Lineman Training Program has been an exemplary model for building capacity and bolstering our workforce commitment and development throughout the U.S. Pacific Insular Areas. I am excited about the results generated by this program where support is largely geared towards the advancement of successful technical and vocational training programs that stand as a valuable resource throughout the region," said Babauta.

In 2009, the Pacific Lineman Training Program provided a total of 38 weeks of professional lineman training and more than 1,600 hours of instruction, both in the classroom and hands-on training in the field. In addition, six veteran linemen from Yap completed the Advance Certification class and received their U.S. Department of Labor certification.

"In the last five years, the Office of Insular Affairs has funded over $2.2 million for the Pacific Lineman Training Program to further develop a cadre of knowledgeable, professional lineman that provide their communities and the utilities service with safe and efficient electricity transmission and field expertise. This is an optimal opportunity to further expand our commitment to job creation while building on existing programs that leverage opportunities for future participants," added Babauta. ***(DOI)***

Cultural dance performances at the public library today

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Members of the community are invited to watch for free the grand finale performance of the cultural dance students who took part in the summer program of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

About 60 students of the Chamorro and Refaluwasch cultural dance lessons that are part of the 2010 Summer Reading & Cultural Fair will perform dance presentations today from 2pm to 4pm.

The 2010 Summer Reading & Cultural Fair is a joint venture of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, CNMI Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Inatuas dancers conducted the Chamorro dance lessons while the Refaluwasch group taught the Carolinian dance lessons.

Erlinda Naputi of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library said the dance lessons, which began on June 23 and ended last Saturday, attracted the participation of children of different ethnicities.

The children also learned how to say chants in Chamorro and Refaluwasch, she added.

Naputi said the students would show what they learned throughout the summer; this week was used for the final touchups for the presentation.

Aside from the dances, Naputi said the students would also showcase cultural accessories and attires they made during the summer program.

According to Naputi, this is the first time that the library incorporated the cultural aspect to their summer program.

The library aims to educate students about the rich local culture and tradition and to pass it on to the younger generation. "Our goal is to preserve our culture," Naputi added.

Naputi said the library will offer more dance lessons to the public in August, this time courtesy of the Marianas High School Dance Club.

They will also have a grand finale for the MHS dance lessons by the end of the month, she said.

Marine mammals presentation today highlights key facts about strandings

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A zoologist from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. is here on island to do a presentation about beach or reef-stranded marine mammals.

Dr. Charles W. Potter will present key facts discovered about these distressed marine mammals over the past 30 years at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center from 1:30pm to 2:30pm today.

Brooke Nevitt of the Coastal Resources Management said that since the CNMI has beaches and reefs, the presentation is relevant for the islands.

Potter will help answer questions from the audience regarding the topic, Nevitt added.

Division of Fish and Wildlife's Michael Trianni said Potter also visited Guam with Dr. Kristi West who conducted necropsy classes or post-mortem evaluation of animals.

According to Trianni, Potter's presentation today would also serve another purpose.

"We're trying to create a stranding network on Saipan so when a marine mammal gets stranded or is observed to be stranded somewhere in the CNMI, there's a network of people who'll be able to react to it in an appropriate manner," he said.

Trianni added that today's presentation would be a good start to bring in other stakeholders other than people from the government agencies for this marine cause.

The presentation is for free and is hosted by the Coastal Resources Managemen, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education, and Environmental Management.

PTK PROJECT NMC

Northern Marianas College student members of Phi Theta Kappa, and adviser and instructor Larry Lee, second row far right, pose for a group photo with Karidat representatives Rose Masayos and Josephine Rabauliman, second and third from left, during PTK's annual Project Graduation event. The student members displayed food items they collected to donate to Karidat (Guma Esperanza), a non-profit organization in the CNMI. PTK's Project Graduation aims to provide student members the opportunity to become actively involved in helping relieve social issues, such as hunger and illiteracy, during the commencement season through donations and other activities. PTK is an international honor society that recognizes academically outstanding students of two-year colleges; it also encourages active involvement in volunteering and community service activities. In this photo, first row starting from left are Shannon Hofschneider, Masayos, Rabauliman, Mindy Park, and Stacey Demapan. In addition, the second row starting from left are Robert Guerrero, Mightee Kim, Lauren Cundiff, Dyenina "Jenen" Diaz, Frances Hofschneider, and Lee.

Australian medical team to arrive in Majuro in August

A medical team from the Pacific Islands Project, which is funded by the Australian government through the Australian Agency for International Development and managed by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, will be arriving in Majuro in early August to volunteer their services at the Majuro Hospital.

The team consists of Dr Roger Butorac, who specializes in orthopaedic surgery, anaesthetist Dr Colin Chilvers and nurse Paul Van Nynanten, who all hail from Launceston, Australia.

The team will provide orthopaedic surgeries at Majuro Hospital from Aug. 2 to 12, 2010. The aim of the project is to work as closely as possible with local doctors and medical staff to help develop their skills in order to continue to provide these vital medical services in the future.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons lauded Dr Korean and Dr Lanwi, based at Majuro hospital, for their invaluable help in coordinating both the medical and logistical aspects of the visit as well as Virgin Blue, Qantas and Continental Airways for their assistance with the transport of the equipment/supplies that will be used by the orthopaedics team. ***(PR)***

Fee waivers for Aug. 11 NMC info session participants

Individuals who participate in the Northern Marianas College's free information session will qualify to receive fee waivers for the upcoming Fall 2010 semester—a savings of about $75.

The event will take place on Aug. 11, in Room D-1 at the As Terlaje campus from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend this event to meet and speak with faculty and staff from the college's different degree and certificate programs.

Counseling, financial aid, admissions, and other NMC staff will also be on hand to answer questions and to assist in the admissions and financial aid process.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including bachelor of science degrees in elementary education, associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

The information session is open to everyone, including high school students and graduates, and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students, and members of the general public who are interested in learning more about the programs at NMC.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1537, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press — Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Proposition 8 ruling changes debate over same-sex marriage forever

When the evidence for and against Proposition 8 is examined in detail, it becomes obvious just how little reason there was to single out gay and lesbian couples as the only ones to be barred from marrying. That kind of examination never took place during the bitter, frenzied 2008 campaign on the initiative. But this year, U.S. District Chief Judge Vaughn R. Walker conducted a far more thoughtful inquiry during the federal trial challenging the measure. As a result, his decision Wednesday was not only welcome, but unsurprising.

Proposition 8 "fails to advance any rational basis in singling out gay men and lesbians for denial of a marriage license," Walker wrote in his opinion. "Indeed, evidence shows Proposition 8 does nothing more than enshrine in the California Constitution the notion that opposite-sex couples are superior to same-sex couples."

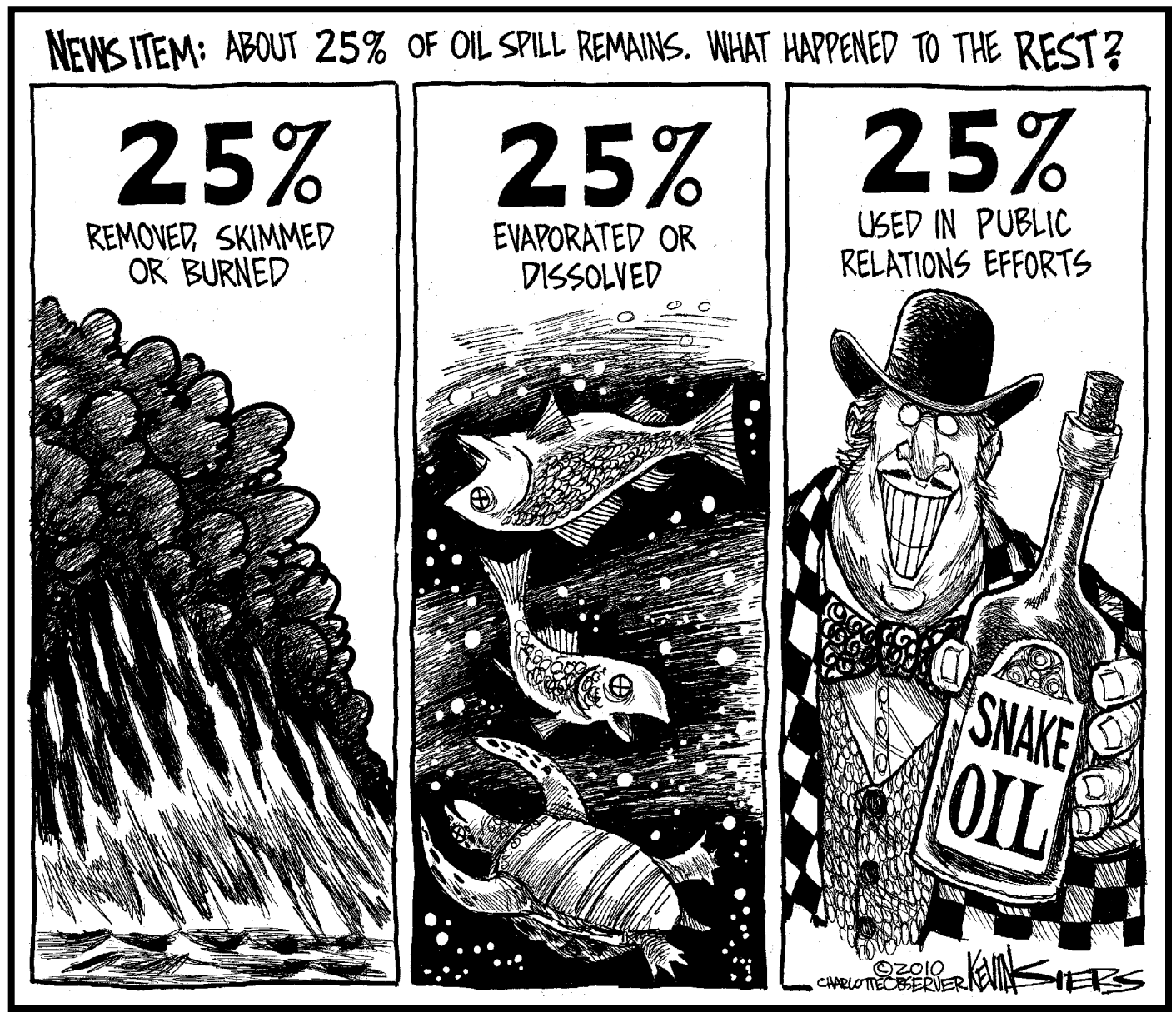
Judicial activism? Hardly. Walker's opinion was based on the evidence presented during the trial—including the testimony of witnesses who supported the ban on same-sex marriage. They tried to defend it as rational by arguing that it would protect traditional marriage from harm, that children are better off when raised by a mother and father, and that marriage exists for "responsible procreation."

Those arguments fell apart when a witness in favor of Proposition 8 could articulate no ways in which same-sex marriage would affect heterosexual marriages. Even if heterosexual couples make better parents—and there is ample evidence that this isn't so—society does not try to strip marriage rights from the ones who make bad parents. Nor does society forbid the marriages of the many heterosexual couples who either cannot or choose not to have children.

In his ruling, Walker said that a key witness presented none of the credible evidence against same-sex marriage that had been promised, and that when the witness was asked about evidence demonstrating the state's interest in procreation through marriage, he replied: "You don't have to have evidence of this point." The case almost certainly will be appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

We strenuously hope that Walker's decision will be upheld by the high court. But no matter what happens, the trial in San Francisco delivered an unforgettable lesson in what Proposition 8 and same-sex marriage really mean. From now on, it will be harder for opponents of same-sex unions to continue mouthing canards. The public as well as the courts have had an opportunity to hear the facts. The debate over same-sex marriage will never be quite the same again.

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times



The other Gulf oil crisis

By ADAM J. LISKA
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is a rude reminder of the risks inherent in an economy dependent upon petroleum. But there's a quieter crisis in the other gulf—the Persian Gulf—that should call Americans' attention to the even more severe consequences of relying upon imported oil.

The costs of using the military to protect the transport of oil from the most turbulent part of the world should convince our country's policymakers to increase investments in researching and developing affordable, American-made clean-burning alternative fuels. But, first, we have to understand the real causes, costs, and consequences of importing 12.9 million barrels of oil per day, which make up nearly 60 percent of U.S. oil consumption at a total direct cost of roughly $300 billion per year.

America's addiction to oil makes our dependence on imports inevitable. The U.S. consumes about a quarter of the annual global production of oil, but our country produces only about 10 percent of the global supply. Roughly half of our imports and a third of our oil consumption are imported from the member states of the OPEC cartel, mostly from the Middle East. The majority of this imported oil arrives to the U.S. via four supertankers per day. From the dangerous maritime straits of the Middle East, the U.S. military protects the transport of oil at an estimated cost of $100 billion a year, above and beyond the prices we pay at the pump.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is fighting two wars that can be traced, at least in part, to the need to secure stable supplies of oil. As former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan wrote in his 2007 memoir, "I am saddened that it is politically inconvenient to acknowledge what everyone knows: the Iraq war is largely about oil. Thus, projections of world oil supply and demand that do not note the highly precarious environment of the Middle East are avoiding the eight-hundred-pound gorilla that could bring world economic growth to a halt."

In addition to maritime security, the Iraq war has cost nearly $100 billion a year since 2003, with the Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz estimating the full costs of the conflict approaching $5 trillion. Iraq has about 9 percent of global oil reserves, less than only Saudi Arabia and Iran.

As for the war in Afghanistan, which has cost more than $300 billion since 2001, the approaching maximum global oil production ("peak oil") may help explain our continued involvement there as well. Of the four countries with the largest projected increase in oil production by 2030, one is Iraq and another is Kazakhstan. Pipelines have been proposed to carry oil and gas from Kazakhstan through Afghanistan to the Indian Ocean, thus by-passing the precarious Persian Gulf.

Protecting the transport of imported oil—and waging wars at least in part to ensure access to oil supplies—comes at a terrible cost in human lives and military spending. There is also an environmental cost that must be considered. Military operations consume huge quantities of fossil fuels that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Therefore, the carbon footprint of imported oil includes the environmental impact of our military operations to secure petroleum, from patrolling the Persian Gulf to waging war in Iraq.

In a recent article in the journal Environment, professor Richard Perrin of the University of Nebraska and I estimate that the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from protecting supertankers in the Persian Gulf total 34.4 million metric tons (MMT) of carbon dioxide a year, while the war in Iraq emits another 43.3 MMT of CO_2 per year. These results are critical for deciding whether to encourage the substitution of biofuels for gasoline, as federal law requires that "indirect emissions" of greenhouse gases from fuel production must be considered.

The U.S. EPA has already estimated emissions from uncertain "indirect land use change," which holds that when U.S. farmers grow grains for ethanol, forests are converted to farmland on other continents. To say the least, this chain of cause-and-effect is less certain than the connection between importing oil from the Middle East and protecting supertankers in the Persian Gulf.

The nation is spending hundreds of billions of dollars securing foreign oil. But we are investing comparatively little in federal research programs conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department of Energy, which are developing the biofuels and making the efficiency improvements that could make obsolete the multitude of costs from foreign oil. Let's change our priorities so that we stop paying the price in human lives, our economic future and accelerated climate change.

Adam J. Liska is an assistant professor and the George Dempster Smith Chair of Industrial Ecology in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at the University of Nebraska. Readers may reach the author at aliska2@unl.edu.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'We forget the lessons of the past at our peril'

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the speech that Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan delivered at the opening of the Manhattan Project Symposium on Tinian on Aug. 5, 2010.

Good morning. Welcome to you all.

And congratulations to Don Farrell and all the organizers of this Symposium on the Manhattan Project. You've done an amazing job putting this event together and bringing people here to Tinian. This must be the most brass that Tinian has seen since the end of World War II.

As a former Army reservist, I'm a little nervous to be standing up here talking to generals. And with professors here I would be presumptuous to try to offer any insight into the history of the Manhattan Project. Our academic guests bring more knowledge and understanding of that history than I could ever pretend to.

What I would like to say by way of welcome and to let you know how significant I believe this event to be is that—as the Northern Marianas representative in the U.S. Congress—I very much look forward to what this Symposium produces. I look forward to hearing the ideas that emerge. I look forward to the attention that those ideas bring to our islands.

Part of the work I do in Congress is to call attention to people and events in our islands that are unusual, inspirational, worthy of note. We are the newest members of the American political family and still in many ways unknown. A woman at the Federal Election Commission last month said: Saipan… Uh, where is that? China? Yes, that was our own federal government. So, we still have a way to go to be fully recognized, wherever we go, as full-fledged Americans.

And yet, ironically, it was Tinian—and the Northern Mariana Islands—that played such a pivotal role in ending World War II, thus catapulting America into military and economic dominance in the world for over half a century. The loss of the Marianas—"the false mask of the Saipan Shield" in the words of poet Mitsuharu Kaneko—brought down the Tojo government. And from this launching pad Fat Man and Little Boy—the product of Oppenheimer and the vast apparatus of the Manhattan Project— were loaded into the bomb bays of B-29s, flown to their final destinations and there brought an end to the war.

Today, the Marianas find ourselves, once again, about to be thrust to the forefront of America's military posture. The Marines are decamping from Okinawa and our bases there—themselves a vestige of World War II. The fortification of Guam is about to commence. Tinian and all the Marianas will now be more and more on the cusp of confrontations between America and power in Asia. This present day renewal of America's military interest in the Marianas makes it even more fitting and wise to recall World War II and the fearful technology that brought that conflict to an end.

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is the representative of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the U.S. Congress.

For as the historians here today believe, I am sure: We forget the lessons of the past at our peril.

So I welcome you.

I congratulate the organizers of this Symposium. And I look forward to the ideas and the insights that emerge from your time together.

In the days ahead Congress—and more people in America—will be hearing and thinking about the Marianas. They will look to gatherings like this to explain the critically important role these islands had in the past. And they will learn, no doubt, by seeing that past something about what the role of the Marianas may be in America's future.

If Obama won't talk about race, he should find someone who will

Barack Obama, our first black president, doesn't like talking about race. He wants his presidency to be remembered for fixing the economy, installing a national health care plan and building a new foreign policy, not the color of his skin.

But the original sin of racial discrimination never stays out of our national conversation for long, and last week even Obama couldn't duck the subject. By an accident of scheduling, he spoke Thursday to the National Urban League, one of the nation's oldest civil rights organizations. It was only a week after the embarrassing episode of Shirley Sherrod, in which Obama's administration forced a black official to resign over a bogus charge of reverse racism.

Here's what Obama said: "We've made progress. And yet, for all our progress ... we were reminded this past week that we've still got work to do.

"We should all make more of an effort to discuss with one another, in a truthful and mature and responsible way, the divides that still exist, the discrimination that's still out there, the prejudices that still hold us back."

And where should that discussion happen? "Not on cable TV, not just through a bunch of academic symposia or fancy commissions or panels, not through political posturing, but around kitchen tables and water coolers," the president said.

But not, you may notice, in the White House, and not with Barack Obama at the table.

This president is an activist. He hasn't hesitated to use his power—and his bully pulpit—to reshape the nation's financial system, its health care system and (if he gets his way) its energy sector. He seized control of GM and Chrysler. He even offered advice to the NCAA on a college football playoff.

But talking about race relations? Not his job.

His press secretary, Robert Gibbs, has spent two weeks deflecting questions with a nonexplanation: "I don't think the president has to be the teacher at every teachable moment."

Obama's allergy to talking about race relations is understandable.

He won the presidency, in part, by not talking about race. Most of the time, he didn't have to. Part of his appeal was his gift of being not only African American but biracial and even post-racial. He embodied the promise of racial healing. Vote for Obama, the not very subliminal message went, and we will be a better country by the close of election day. His biography and his appearance made the point better than words.

Only when events demanded did Obama tackle race head on during the campaign—in Atlanta in January 2008, when he spoke at the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Ebenezer Baptist Church to establish his African-American bona fides, and in Philadelphia in March, to quell the furor over the intemperate sermons of his pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. Even then, Obama didn't really try to launch a national conversation about race; he delivered eloquent monologues, and moved on to other issues.

Since his inauguration, the president and his White House have treated the hot-button issue of race mostly as a dangerous distraction from the business they wanted to focus on. When Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. made headlines excoriating Americans as "cowards" about confronting race, the White House wasn't pleased. When Obama accused a police officer of behaving "stupidly" by arresting Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., the gaffe required a beer summit. Last month, when Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack asked Sherrod to resign, it was a hasty attempt to head off another racial controversy at a time when the White House wanted the national conversation to be about financial regulation.

If any further proof was needed, Obama and his aides need only look to their most bitter opponents. Some of the president's right-wing critics appear desperate to change the subject to race. Their argument, in the words of Fox News Channel's Glenn Beck, is that Obama "has a deep-seated hatred for white people or the white culture. ... This guy is, I believe, a racist." Don't look for evidence to back up that poisonous charge; there isn't any. But Beck and others seem to think that by repeating it, they can not only erode Obama's legitimacy as a racial healer but convince white voters that he's anti-them. And anti-majority politicians don't win many elections.

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

Obama has every reason to keep himself offstage when the issue is race. Being a "normal" president—by focusing on policy and legislation rather than race relations—has been one of his signal achievements. To most of white America, he's just the president, not the black president. In most of the country, the conversation isn't about whether Obama is favoring blacks or whites or anyone else; it's about whether his stimulus plan can work and whether he's running too big a deficit.

But that doesn't mean we don't also need to talk about racial equality and ethnic diversity. Who could lead such a dialogue in a civilized, useful way? Bill Clinton, who launched a similar conversation in 1997, could help. Gates, the Harvard professor, knows a thing or two. Or Jim Webb, the Democratic senator from Virginia who has criticized diversity programs for favoring high-income minority candidates over low-income whites. Or Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., one of the surviving heroes of the civil rights movement that made Obama's presidency possible.

The president doesn't need to teach on every issue. But on this one, he might consider asking someone else to.

US, Afghans differ on success of military campaign

By HAFIZULLAH GARDESH
INSTITUTE ON WAR AND PEACE REPORTING

MARJAH, Afghanistan—Roughly six months after a major NATO-led offensive intended to rid this key district of Helmand province of the Taliban, military officials and local residents offer very different assessments of the mission's success.

While international forces still have the occasional clash with insurgents, a spokesman for the U.S. Army described Marjah as stable and claimed that numerous economic development programs were under way.

Local residents, on the other hand, insist that the Taliban continue to pose a major threat, that they are too frightened to go to work and are concerned that reconstruction projects are failing.

Mir Wali, a shopkeeper in the Loya Chareh bazaar, complained that he had never seen Marjah so insecure. He said he believed the Taliban will take over the area if things don't improve.

"I saw with my own eyes sometime back that the Taliban attacked the governor and Americans on this intersection," he said, referring to a triple suicide bombing in the center of Marjah in June, which targeted Richard Holbrooke, the special U.S. envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Local businessmen say they are too frightened to open their shops because of Taliban threats.

"The Taliban number has increased and they have worsened the conditions for the people," said Gul Ahmad. "They warn us to shut the shops. They are very cruel and if I do not shut the shop, they will beat me to death."

A U.S. army spokesman said that the vast majority of the shops in Marjah were now open and functioning normally.

"Two weeks after we initially entered Marjah, there were few, if any, shops open in the bazaars," he said.

But now, he said, "The bazaars normally see several hundred locals shopping there daily, showing significant trust in the security situation."

The spokesman also emphasized that coalition forces had numerous projects under way, including the construction of schools and roads.

"We also conduct daily Quick Impact Projects where locals clean the bazaars, dredge canals, and numerous other small daily projects," he added.

Asadullah, a local resident, said, however, he worked as day laborer on one U.S-financed project but quit because of the threat of violence.

"I worked in a project for one month," he said. "We were cleaning the streams and drains and they paid $5 a day," he said. "But the number of Taliban fighters increased so much that every day they were conducting attacks. The attacks increased and I left the work."

A worker with International Relief and Development described the difficulties his organization had encountered when trying to distribute water pumps to farmers in the district.

"The people are afraid," said the worker, who declined to give his name out of security concerns. "The Taliban burn the water pumps and threaten to kill any farmer who accepts them."

IRD spokeswoman Melissa Price said that irrigation pump distribution in the district has been "impeded by a persistent intimidation campaign from the Taliban and concerns from the district government that the distribution would not be adequately monitored due to security conditions."

Helmand officials concede that there are problems, but contend that the situation is not as grave as some Marjah residents say.

"No doubt there are problems in Marjah, we face Taliban attacks, but people support us and there are improvements in Marjah," district chief Mohammad Zaher said in a telephone interview. "The situation is not so bad." Taliban spokesman Qari Usuf Ahmadi said the insurgents receive support from the local residents.

"People help us, they give us food and support us and that is why our operations go so well," he said.

Hafizullah Gardesh is the local editor in Afghanistan for IWPR, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

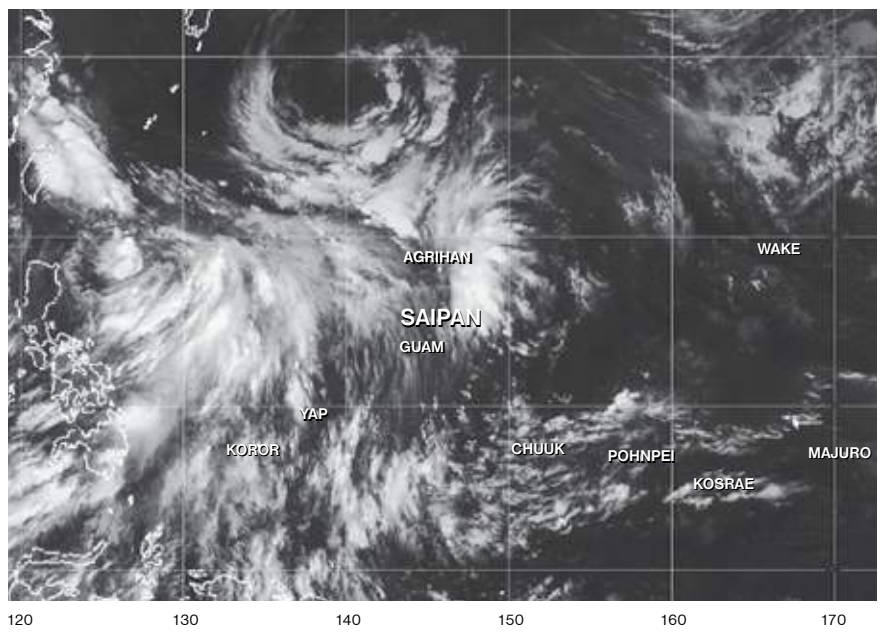
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲90	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲59	▼53
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲79	▼68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼74
London	Showers	▲73	▼59
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲56	▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲92	▼81
New York	Sunny	▲83	▼66
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲91	▼75
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼59
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲85	▼76
Rome	Sunny	▲88	▼66
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼60
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼53
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough stretches eastward from a monsoon circulation west of Luzon through 19N130E to west of the northern CNMI at 21N139E then turns northeastward to beyond 25N at 144E. Divergent upper-level winds are enhancing numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms near the trough axis north of Palau between 11N and 19N from 130E to 139E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring farther east. North and northwest of Guam and Saipan within 175 miles of a line from 15N175E to 22N146E to 24N137E. Converging south winds to the south of the surface trough are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over west and south of Koror between the equator and 9N from 130E to 137E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers east of Yap around Chuuk and west of Pohnpei between 2N and 8N from 138E to 157E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:21 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:35 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Wednesday	6:02 AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:35 AM	4:03 PM
Sunday	3:38 AM	4:59 PM
Monday	4:43 AM	5:53 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:43 PM
Wednesday	6:49 AM	7:30 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 4, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am +1	4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 7, 2000

CPA cuts harbor departure fee to $2.25

The Commonwealth Ports Authority Board has approved the implementation of Seaport Incentive Program which lowers the passenger departure fee at Saipan Harbor from $5.85 to $2.25 for one year, in a move to help the tourism industry cope with the decline in the economy. CPA Seaport Committee Chair Francisco Q. Guerrero said the board made sure that such incentive will not hamper its debt service to the $33 million seaport bond. Despite the slowdown in the island's tourism economy, seaport operation has slightly shown improvement with the increase in visits by commercial vessels at Saipan Harbor. There are currently 12 commercial boat operators using Saipan Harbor, with the Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc. the biggest client as CPA earns $280,000 annually from their operation.

CNMI hires Preston Gates anew

The CNMI government has hired the lobbying services of Preston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds amid growing support for a bill in the U.S. Congress which will deprive the islands of trade privileges granted under the Covenant, according to a statement release on Friday by the Office of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. The lobbying firm, which had provided public relations and lobbying for the Commonwealth in the past, was selected for their expertise and long-time experience with CNMI concerns, said the statement. A response to initial requests from the House of Representatives, the hiring of Preston Gates was backed by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce which has expressed concern on the "devastating impact" of the congressional action, the group said in a letter to the governor.

Aug. 7, 2001

Babauta: Hazard pay bill moot

After a grueling run through the two chambers of the Legislature, the measure appropriating hazard pay for the CNMI's police officers and firemen may prove to be unnecessary after all. This, after House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta, who authored House Bill 12-381 himself, said that Civil Service Commission regulations already contain provisions governing the payment of hazard pay. "The original version of the bill would mandate the Department of Public Safety to provide for hazard pay incentives to sworn-in police officers and fire fighters, officially putting the policy on the books.

'A salary hike concealed'

The bill that ostensibly aims to provide hazard pay for the Commonwealth's police officers and firemen is nothing more than a 25-percent salary increase for Department of Public Safety personnel. This was the contention of acting Executive Director Cecilia L. Blas of the Civil Service Commission during an interview yesterday over the recent passage of House Bill 12-381 at the Senate. Quoting the CSC's official comment to the proposed measure, Blas said that the CNMI's police officers and firemen are actually already receiving hazard pay. "The hazard pay for policemen and firemen are already factored in into their base salaries so there is no longer any need to provide for a separate hazard pay," she said.

Aug. 7, 2002

CUC bares plan to phase out nonresident workers

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has bared plans to replace its nonresident employees with local workers soon, including those occupying sensitive positions. The CUC does not intend to renew the employment of some of the firm's nonresident workers when their existing contract expires. These may include the CUC's internal auditor. CUC Executive Director Bernard P. Villagomez also disclosed training plans to upgrade the skills of local workers so they can eventually replace nonresident professionals in the utility firm.

Reyes: Waiver bill to DOA at lower chamber

Sen. Pete Reyes said that, although he voted for the passage of Senate Bill 13-84, he believes that it is an appropriation act and should have been initiated at the House. At the same time, aware of the position that has already been taken by the lower chamber on the waiver issue, he said he was already expecting the bill to die upon reaching the House. "I went ahead, however, and voted to pass the bill simply because it was already before the Senate and was being entertained. But it doesn't change the fact that I felt it was a bill that should have been initiated at the House because I feel it appropriates funds since it changes the funding level for the administration," Reyes said.

Business

To seal or sell? BP has options on remaining oil

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The vast oil reservoir beneath BP's blown-out well could still be worth billions of dollars even after it spewed crude into the Gulf of Mexico for more than three months—but the multinational company blamed for causing the disaster isn't saying whether it plans to cash in on this potential windfall.

As BP on Thursday finished pumping cement into the blown well in hopes of sealing it for good, it insisted it had no plans to use it or its two relief wells to produce oil. But the company won't comment on the possibility of drilling in the same block of sea floor someday or selling the rights to the entire tract to another oil company.

None of this is likely to sit well with the people who lost their livelihoods from one of history's worst oil spills - and who might find it distasteful for a company with revenues of $147 billion in the first half of 2010 even to consider revisiting the scene of April's fatal rig explosion as a profit source.

Linda Kaye Randolph, 54, a real estate investor who grew up on the coast in Pass Christian, Miss., said Thursday it disturbs her that anyone might use the site commercially.

"People died out there on that rig," she said, her voice cracking. "It isn't about the money. It would bother me that they're not respecting the people who died there. There's thousands of other wells. They can find another place. Leave that one alone."

One question is whether a relief well BP is drilling to plug the well for good, and its backup, could one day be used for production.

In recent days, the company has hinted it might not be necessary to pump mud and cement through the relief well, especially after news this week that a preliminary step - pumping the same filler into the top of the broken well - appeared to be working on its own.

Since sending filler into the runaway well via the relief hole would render it useless and unprofitable in the future, BP's apparent reluctance to do so raises suspicions it might be thinking about using the site later for commercial purposes, and BP isn't talking.

"I can't speculate on what the future might bring," spokesman Daren Beaudo said Thursday evening. "We're focused on the response."

BP has not been approached by any other company about buying the relief wells, spokesman Scott Dean said.

But with the company and its partners facing tens of billions of dollars in liabilities, the incentive to exploit the wells and the reservoir could grow.

Outgoing BP Chief Executive Tony Hayward said in June that the reservoir feeding the busted well was believed to hold about 2.1 billion gallons of oil. Roughly 200 million gallons have leaked out, leaving about 1.9 billion gallons, or about 45,238,000 barrels. At the current market price per barrel - $82 - that would make the reservoir still worth $3.7 billion.

The method of plugging the well could help determine how easily the reservoir can be tapped in the future.

More jobs needed to lift consumers, drive recovery

WASHINGTON (AP)—Faster job growth is needed to accelerate the recovery, but economists worry the government's July employment report won't show strong gains.

Without more jobs, Americans are likely to remain cautious with their spending, restraining the economic rebound. But without more spending, companies will likely be slow to hire.

The report will be released Friday morning.

"To break out of this, we need both employment and consumption to come up together," said Nigel Gault, an economist at IHS Global Insight.

While the economy has grown modestly in the past year, much of the rebound is due to temporary factors. They include government stimulus spending and companies' restocking of warehouses depleted in the recession.

More hiring and rising incomes would put the recovery on a sustainable footing. But Friday's jobs report may not show much of an increase.

Companies are forecast to have added a net total of 90,000 private-sector jobs in July, according to economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters. That's not nearly enough to bring down the unemployment rate, which is expected to rise to 9.6 percent from 9.5 percent.

Overall, the economy is likely to lose a total of 65,000 jobs because of the end of temporary positions with the U.S. Census Bureau.

Friday's report is being closely watched by the Federal Reserve as it considers ways to energize the recovery. A weak jobs report would put pressure on the Fed to take new steps to boost the economy and keep interest rates at record lows when it meets next week.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

SUV strikes 4 people in Honolulu, leaving 2 dead

HONOLULU (AP)—Authorities say a sport utility vehicle that went out of control in a Honolulu parking lot struck four people, leaving two of them dead. Two men who were pinned under the SUV were pronounced dead after being taken to The Queen's Medical Center. Another victim was hospitalized in stable condition, while the fourth was treated at the scene and released. Authorities say the accident happened Thursday in a restaurant parking lot. A restaurant worker told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser that the victims were among a group of 21 people who meet for lunch four times a year. Witnesses said the SUV, which had been modified for a driver with a disability, was being driven by someone other than the owner. Police Lt. David Nilsen says authorities will confiscate the vehicle and investigate for vehicular or human error.

Calif. teen charged with killing female cousin, 11

LANCASTER, Calif. (AP)—A 16-year-old boy is being held without bail for fatally stabbing his 11-year-old cousin and wounding her 14-year-old sister outside their desert home north of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles County district attorney's office on Thursday charged Lonnie Liner as an adult with murder and attempted murder. Sheriff's deputies arrested him Tuesday in a nearby junkyard. Officials say Liner slashed the 11-year-old's throat and the girl died in her Littlerock home. The victim's sister suffered multiple stab wounds but escaped and is expected to survive. A motive has not been released. Liner faces up to two life terms in prison if convicted. It was unknown if he had an attorney.

French man survives 75-foot fall at Grand Canyon

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Ariz. (AP)—A French tourist has survived a 75-foot fall off the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Witnesses say the 18-year-old man reportedly slipped Thursday afternoon while taking pictures near the rim. Park rangers received a report of a man falling over the edge of Mather Point, which is a short walk behind the South Rim's visitor center. Paramedics rappelled down to the man's location, found him conscious and stabilized him so he could be airlifted out of the canyon and transported by ambulance to Flagstaff Medical Center. Park officials say the man—whose name and hometown have not been released—was treated for wrist, ankle and neck injuries.

Calif. man sentenced in crossbow slaying

LANCASTER, Calif. (AP)—An ex-convict has been sentenced to 64 years to life in prison for killing a man with a crossbow in California. A jury convicted 39-year-old Curtis Scott of killing 62-year-old Angel Martinez in March 2008. Martinez's body was found in Lancaster with an arrow sticking out of his chest. Scott was sentenced Thursday. Prosecutors say the crime was a random attack that Scott intended to show his stepdaughter he was someone not to be messed with. Martinez was a retired Edwards Air Force Base employee who was out for a late-night walk when he was struck in the middle of an intersection.

Sheriff: 3 dead after small plane crashes in Colo.

CENTRAL CITY, Colo. (AP)—Authorities say a small plane crashed and burned in the northern Colorado mountains, killing all three people on board. The Gilpin County sheriff's office says the single-engine plane was flying from Boulder to California when it crashed Wednesday near Rollins Pass. The victims' names haven't been released. The sheriff's office previously said it was believed only one person was in the plane. A spokeswoman says the plane was so severely burned and mangled that it was difficult to tell how many people were inside. Investigators from the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are expected to return to the crash site Friday.

Gay marriage before nation's largest appeals court

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The judge who overturned California's gay marriage ban was unrelenting in his repudiation of the measure, saying such laws are mean-spirited and unconstitutional to the core.

It was a harsh yet carefully worded ruling that some experts said would be tough to overturn as the landmark legal debate goes to the appeals court and then possibly to the U.S. Supreme Court. Others say the power of conservative judges on those courts could be enough to thwart gay marriage and stop the movement in its tracks.

Sure to be at the center of the debate is whether California's Proposition 8 violates the 14th Amendment, which guarantees equal protections for all and declares that government won't take away "life, liberty or property" without due process.

U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker said on several occasions in his ruling that he believes gay marriage bans clearly deprive people of those rights.

"The evidence at trial regarding the campaign to pass Proposition 8 uncloaks the most likely explanation for its passage: a desire to advance the belief that opposite-sex couples are morally superior to same-sex couples," he said.

Walker's ruling offers a preview of some of the arguments that will play out on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals—the nation's largest and most unpredictable federal appeals court.

Experts say the court will play a huge role in determining the future of the case.

A randomly selected three-judge panel of the court will consider the case next. The 9th Circuit is viewed as a liberal court, but its sheer size of 27 active judges and the many cutting-edge legal issues it receives from western states leaves it with an inconsistent track record.

And there's no disputing that the court has some hot-button social issues in front of it right now. Just last week, the controversial Arizona immigration law landed at the court.

The court is routinely rebuffed by the Supreme Court and federal lawmakers for striking down the Pledge of Allegiance, upholding California's medical marijuana law and other decisions viewed as resting outside the mainstream.

AP

James Grady and Mike Picardi cheer the news as advocates for gay marriage rally on Capitol Hill in Salt Lake City after a federal court judge overturned California's same-sex marriage ban Wednesday Aug. 4, 2010.

Senate confirms Kagan as 112th justice

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate confirmed Elena Kagan Thursday as the Supreme Court's 112th justice and the fourth woman in its history, granting a lifetime term to a lawyer and academic with a reputation for brilliance, a dry sense of humor and a liberal bent.

The vote was 63-37 for President Barack Obama's nominee to succeed retired Justice John Paul Stevens.

Five Republicans joined all but one Democrat and the Senate's two independents to support Kagan. In a rarely practiced ritual reserved for the most historic votes, senators sat at their desks and stood to cast their votes with "ayes" and "nays."

Kagan watched on TV in the conference room at the solicitor general's office, with her Justice Department colleagues looking on. She's to be sworn in Saturday afternoon at the court by Chief Justice John Roberts.

Obama, traveling in Chicago, said Kagan will make an outstanding justice who understands that her rulings affect people, and called the addition of another woman to the court a sign of progress for the country. He invited Kagan to the White House Friday for a ceremony marking her confirmation.

The vote, Obama said, was "an affirmation of her character and her temperament; her open-mindedness and evenhandedness; her determination to hear all sides of every story and consider all possible arguments."

Kagan isn't expected to alter the ideological balance of the court, where Stevens was considered a leader of the liberal wing. But the two parties clashed over her nomination and the court itself. Republicans argued that Kagan was a politically motivated activist who would be unable to put aside her opinions and rule impartially. Democrats defended her as a highly qualified trailblazer for women who could bring a note of moderation and real-world experience to a polarized court they said was dominated by just the kind of activists the GOP denounced.

Medicare fund will last extra 12 years—— maybe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Medicare is in better shape because of President Barack Obama's sweeping health care overhaul and will stay afloat a dozen years longer than earlier projected, trustees forecast Thursday. But that depends on cuts in care that the system's top analyst says are highly doubtful.

The annual report by the trustees who oversee Medicare and Social Security, led by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, gives backers of the new health care law evidence of a positive impact on government entitlement programs, but it also undercuts the findings with a host of caveats.

In what amounted to a dissenting opinion, top Medicare actuary Richard Foster warned that the report's financial projections "do not represent a reasonable expectation" for the hospital fund for America's elderly.

Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of health and human services and one of the trustees, said they were required to assume current law in making their projections, including a cut in Medicare payments to doctors. She, too, doubted the cuts would ever happen, "which is why we continue to provide cautionary notes" in the report.

The trustees projected the Medicare Hospital trust fund would be exhausted in 2029, or 12 years later than estimated last year.

The news wasn't as rosy for Social Security, which will pay out more in benefits than it collects in taxes for the first time in decades this year and next year. The Social Security trust funds are expected to be exhausted in 2037, the same date as in last year's report.

More bad news for Social Security recipients: The trustees project no cost-of-living increase for Social Security recipients next year, the second year in a row with no increase. The adjustments are based on inflation.

18 states endure deadly stretch of steamy weather

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—This heat wave isn't just stifling—it's deadly.

Extreme temperatures continued Thursday across a large swath of the country, killing more than a dozen people, at least two police dogs and likely contributing to the death of Franklin the rhinoceros at a Mississippi zoo. Arkansas fire departments were volunteering to hose down overheated cattle, and people as far north as Maine were trying to stay cool.

High school football teams and marching bands practiced indoors or canceled altogether. Tennessee election officials touted air-conditioned polling places as a way to bring in voters, and many cities set up cooling centers for those who needed a break from the sun.

Residents were encouraged to check on their neighbors, especially the elderly.

The scorching temperatures and high humidity made it feel like at least 100 degrees in many places, with heat advisories in effect for 18 states.

"This heat wears on everybody," said Sandy Shamburger, who runs Rankin Sod Farm in Brandon, Miss. "We rigged up lights on a sod harvester so we can work at night."

Still, not even nightfall brings much relief, with temperatures sometimes lingering in the 80s overnight.

In Columbia, S.C., 33-year-old Kylin Doster tried to stay under the shade of his umbrella stand as he hustled to serve up steaming hot dogs. He said he works from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Main Street, then sets up outside a biker bar north of town from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m.

"It's really, really hot now, but it even stays hot at night," Doster said. "It don't make any difference. It just stays hot."

The heat has been blamed for at least 16 deaths in Mississippi and Tennessee alone, including a man who had a heart attack while mowing his lawn and a construction worker who was spreading concrete.

Asia

US, nuclear powers join Hiroshima memorial

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP)—The site of the world's worst atomic bomb attack echoed with the choirs of schoolchildren and the solemn ringing of bells Friday as Hiroshima marked its biggest memorial yet and the first to be attended by the U.S. and other major nuclear powers.

Washington's decision to send U.S. Ambassador John Roos to the 65th anniversary of the bombing was seen by many as potentially paving the way for President Barack Obama to visit Hiroshima—which would be unprecedented for a sitting U.S. leader.

Along with the U.S., Britain and France also made their first official appearance at the memorial, as well as U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Altogether, 74 nations were represented.

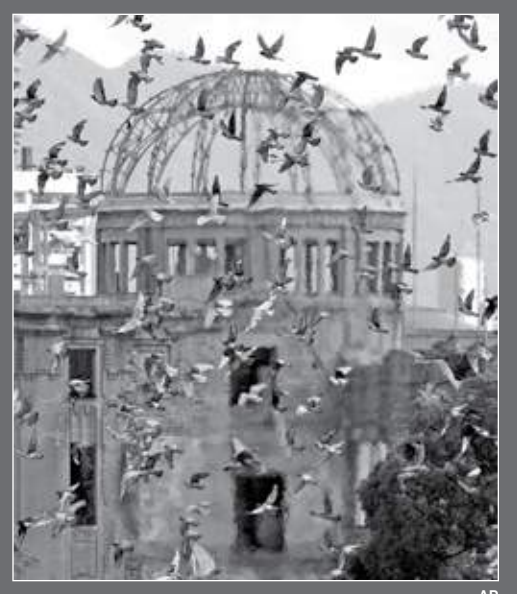
China, which sent a low-ranking official in 2008, was not participating. Officials said it did not give a reason.

Hiroshima was careful to ensure that the memorial—while honoring the 140,000 who died on or soon after the attack on Aug. 6, 1945—emphasized a look-forward approach, focusing not on whether the bombing was justified, a point which many Japanese dispute, but on averting a future nuclear attack.

Roos said the memorial was a chance to show resolve toward nuclear disarmament.

"For the sake of future generations, we must continue to work together to realize a world without nuclear weapons," he said in a statement.

Ban, who presented flowers at the Eternal Flame in Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park, said this year's memorial will send a strong signal to the world that nuclear weapons must be destroyed.



AP

Doves fly past the gutted Atomic Bomb Dome during the 65th anniversary ceremony of the 1945 atomic bombing at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, western Japan, Friday, Aug. 6, 2010.

"Life is short, but memory is long," Ban said. "For many of you, that day endures... as vivid as the white light that seared the sky, as dark as the black rains that followed."

Ban added that the time has come to move from "Ground Zero, to Global Zero"—a world without any nuclear arms.

Pakistan readies for more floods

SUKKUR, Pakistan (AP)—Authorities were preparing for flooding Friday in southern Pakistan as the worst monsoon rains in decades left an ever lengthier trail of death and destruction in a nation already suffering Islamist violence and an anemic economy.

Over the last week, floods have spread from the northwest down the country, killing around 1,500 people and affecting upward of three million people. Much of the destruction has come from the mighty Indus River, which in better times irrigates vast swaths of farmland.

Some 30,000 Pakistan soldiers are rebuilding bridges, delivering food and setting up relief camps in the northwest, which is the main battleground in the fight against al-Qaida and the Taliban. Foreign countries and the United Nations have donated millions of dollars, and U.S. army helicopters are also helping out.

River embankments were being strengthened and people evacuated from low lying villages in Sukkur district in Sindh province, said regional irrigation minister Jam Saifullah Dharejo.

The U.S. Embassy said 85 military service people were taking part in the U.S. relief mission, which is taking place in the northwest, where the destruction has been the most serious.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Flash floods kill at least 59 in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—A sudden overnight downpour and flash floods killed at least 59 people and injured 200 in the remote and mountainous Ladakh region of Indian-controlled Kashmir, police and army officials said Friday. Police and paramilitary soldiers had pulled 59 bodies from flood-hit areas around Leh, the main town in Ladakh, state police chief Kuldeep Khoda said. Rescue efforts were being hampered by gushing water and debris, he said. Operations had been stopped at Leh airport after it was badly damaged by the flood waters, with parts of the runway washed away. Indian air force troopers were clearing the debris from the airstrip, Khoda said.

Cambodia to restore 'killing fields' memorial

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Cambodia plans to renovate the skull-filled memorial on the site of the Khmer Rouge's former "killing fields" for the first time since it was built two decades ago. Now a grim tourist attraction, Choeung Ek outside the capital Phnom Penh was where most of the prisoners who were tortured at the regime's main prison, S-21, were taken to be killed. The remains of some 8,900 human skulls and bones are displayed in glass cases inside a Buddhist stupa-style structure, a religious monument, that was built in 1988 and has never been renovated, said Chour Sokty, the site's director. He said experts will begin cleaning the stupa's roof, repainting the structure's white facade, cleaning an accumulation of cobwebs and repaving the area outside the building.

16 bodies recovered from China coal mine

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese state news agency is reporting that no survivors have been found among the 16 miners trapped by a lethal gas leak in a coal mine in central China four days ago. The official Xinhua News Agency said Friday that workers had retrieved 16 bodies from the Sanyuandong Coal Mine in Dengfeng in central China's Henan province. It said that when the leak happened, 111 other miners scrambled to safety, but that the 16 were trapped. Calls to the Dengfeng government office ran unanswered early Monday.

World

WikiLeaks posts huge encrypted file to Web

LONDON (AP)—Online whistle-blower WikiLeaks has posted a huge encrypted file named "Insurance" to its website, sparking speculation that those behind the organization may be prepared to release more classified information if authorities interfere with them.

At 1.4 gigabytes, the file is 20 times larger than the batch of 77,000 secret U.S. military documents about Afghanistan that WikiLeaks dumped onto the Web last month, and cryptographers say that the file is virtually impossible to crack—unless WikiLeaks releases the key used to encode the material.

"There's no way that anyone has any chance of figuring out what's in there," Paul Kocher, president of US-based Cryptography Research, said Thursday.

That hasn't stopped bloggers and journalists from speculating. Some say the files could be the 15,000 or so intelligence reports which WikiLeaks says it's held back for vetting. Others, pointing to its enormous size, say it could be a compilation of the 260,000 classified diplomatic cables allegedly accessed by Army intelligence analyst Bradley Manning.

Tariq Aziz: Obama is 'leaving Iraq to the wolves'

LONDON (AP)—Saddam Hussein's leading lieutenant accused the United States of abandoning Iraq and leaving the country to die, according to a British newspaper interview to be published Friday.

Tariq Aziz, whose long tenure as Saddam's foreign minister made him the international face of the Iraqi dictator's regime, was quoted by The Guardian newspaper a saying that he was hopeful about President Barack Obama at first.

"I thought he was going to correct some of the mistakes of Bush," the paper quoted Aziz as saying from his jail cell in north Baghdad. "But Obama is a hypocrite. He is leaving Iraq to the wolves."

The Guardian said that Aziz slammed the planned withdrawal of U.S. forces from the country, saying that both it and the United Kingdom had an obligation to make sure Iraq was back on its feet before exiting.

"We are all victims of America and Britain," Aziz said, according to the paper. "They killed our country in many ways. When you make a mistake you need to correct a mistake, not leave Iraq to its death."

Aziz, who was handed over to Iraqi authorities by the United States several months ago, refused to condemn his former boss, who was executed in December 2006.

"If I speak now about regrets, people will view me as an opportunist," he told the paper. "When I am free and can write the truth."

Aziz's appearance is one of several defendants in a long-running case in which he is accused of being part of a campaign targeting members of Iraq's Dawa Party, of which Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is a member. Aziz, who has suffered several strokes, appeared frail at a court appearance last month. The Guardian's piece—which was due to be published in full in Friday's edition of the paper—offered no assessment of Aziz's condition, but said that his prison was "clean and well-managed."

Ariz

In the interview, Aziz offered a defense of his time as Saddam's deputy—and insight into the origins of the 2003 Iraq War.

Saddam preferred to keep the world guessing about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, Aziz said. But he explained that it was more about maintaining Iraq's regional standing than pushing the country into conflict with the U.S. and Britain.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexican court upholds capital's gay marriage law

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's Supreme Court ruled Thursday that a law allowing same-sex marriages in Mexico City is constitutional, rejecting an appeal by federal prosecutors who argued it violated the charter's guarantees to protect the family. The justices' 8-2 ruling handed a legal victory to hundreds of same-sex couples who have been married in Mexico's capital since the landmark law took effect March 4. When approved last December, it was the first law in Latin America explicitly giving gay marriages the same status as heterosexual ones, including adoption. The court, however, must still rule on the adoption clause and whether the ruling will affect states outside of the capital. It is expected to address adoption on Monday. "We are very happy," said Mexico City lawyer Leticia Bonifaz, who argued Mexico City's case. "It fell to us to carry to a conclusion a struggle that has taken a long time."

Britain's Cameron criticized for Iran nuke gaffe

LONDON (AP)—Opposition politicians have been needling British leader David Cameron for telling a town hall audience that Iran "has got a nuclear weapon." The prime minister was speaking about Turkish accession to the EU before a crowd of local residents in the English seaside town of Hove on Thursday when he made the slip. He was saying that the EU would be better off in Turkey joined because it could help solve problems "like the Middle East peace process and the fact that Iran has got a nuclear weapon." While Britain, the United States and others accuse Iran of covertly seeking nuclear weapons, they haven't accused the country of actually possessing one. Cameron's Downing Street Office insisted that it was clear he was referring to Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Scottish police: deaths of 3 children suspicious

LONDON (AP)—The death of three children discovered following a suspected gas explosion at an apartment in the Scottish capital city of Edinburgh is being investigated as suspicious, police said Thursday. Their mother, who apparently fell from one of the building's upper stories, remains in serious but stable condition. British media say the family was locked in a bitter custody battle which pit the mother, 46-year-old Theresa Riggi, against her husband Pasquale, also 46. Theresa and her children—8-year-old twins Augustino and Gianluca Riggi and their 5-year-old sister Cecilia—had been reported missing in the month preceding the blast, and Scotland's Press and Journal said a judge had issued an order barring the family from leaving the country.

Bolivia begins military training for civilians

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—Bolivia's leftist government said Thursday it has begun military training for civilians at army barracks in what the opposition called a first step toward creating pro-government militias. Weapons instruction and physical training began on Monday for hundreds at military bases in Bolivia's east, a stronghold of the pro-business opposition, and army officials said it would extend to all bases. The program is reminiscent of one that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez launched in his country after a failed 2002 coup attempt that he blamed on the United States. Venezuela claims it has 120,000 participants. Chavez and Bolivian President Evo Morales are close allies.

Maharlika
PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS
Saturday, August 7, 2010

RP suffers brain drain as best workers go abroad

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippines is suffering a crippling brain drain with many of its most talented and qualified workers heading overseas for higher-paid jobs and better lifestyles, employers say.

The shock resignations last week of 25 Philippine Airlines pilots, who left for bigger salaries abroad, highlighted a trend that is changing the stereotype of overseas Filipinos being simply maids, sailors and laborers.

Scientists, engineers, doctors, IT specialists, accountants and even teachers are among the English-speaking talent heading to foreign lands, leaving the government and private companies scrambling to find replacements.

"There is a skills hemorrhage. We are losing workers in the highly professional and skilled categories," Vicente Leogardo, director-general of the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines, told Agence France-Presse.

The pilots who quit for jobs in the Middle East and elsewhere in Asia would have in some cases nearly tripled their salaries, Airline Pilots Association of the Philippines president Elmer Pena told AFP.

"The salary here is a lot smaller than in other countries. You can't really compare it," he said.

Civil engineer Paris Chuchana joined the exodus two years ago when he moved his family to Singapore so he could take a job earning about US$1,600 a month, five times more than the maximum salary he could expect at home.

Like many expatriates, Chuchana enjoys the lifestyle outside his homeland, which suffers from pervasive corruption, poor infrastructure and frequent natural disasters.

"I was just on vacation, visiting my aunt here, but I found I liked it, so I resigned from my job in the Philippines and came over," Chuchana told AFP by telephone from Singapore, adding he had no intention of returning home soon.

"My first kid is entering high school so I am already preparing for college."

The nine million Filipinos who work overseas—about one tenth of the nation's population—in both high and low-skilled sectors undoubtedly play a crucial role in propping up the nation's sputtering economy.

Last year they sent home $17.3 billion to relatives or for investment, making up more than 10 percent of the nation's gross domestic product, according to government data.

But Philippine Airlines' recent woes have highlighted the costs.

The carrier said its hopes for turning a profit this financial year had nosedived because the pilot walkout had forced some flights to be cancelled.

Other organizations recently reported similar brain-drain pain.

The government weather station was heavily criticized last month after it failed to predict the full force of Typhoon Basyang (international codename: Conson) that killed dozens of people.

In its appeal for understanding, it said it did not have enough qualified meteorologists because 24 staff had gone abroad for better-paying jobs in recent years.

And just this week, the environment department announced it had lost 83 geologists to overseas work over the past three years, hampering government programs for mapping earthquake threats and mineral resources.

A Department of Labor study in 2008 found that despite a huge domestic workforce, many positions for skilled workers were going unfilled because there were not enough qualified applicants.

Amid this shortfall, 22 percent of the roughly 330,000 Filipinos who went abroad to work last year were technical, managerial or clerical workers, according to official data.

The government has been seeking ways to upgrade salaries and benefits, according to Myrna Asuncion, assistant director of the government's economic planning department.

"But local salaries can only go up by so much before they start hurting the competitiveness of local industries," Asuncion told AFP.

"We want to provide employment opportunities in the Philippines but there are some sectors that say salaries are already too high," she said.

With no solution in sight, business groups hold little hope of keeping the nation's top talent at home.

"You cannot stop these people from seeking greener pastures," said Jesus Varela, a committee chairman with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Midwife Chae Reviso returned to the Philippines after eight years working tax and rent-free in Saudi Arabia because she wanted to live again with her husband.

But barely a year later, the 39-year-old is preparing to leave again because her homeland offered her too few opportunities.

"I felt I owed my husband some time but I cannot afford to build a house on my salary in the Philippines," Reviso said. ***(Agence France-Presse)***

Ex-students of baking, culinary arts classes hold reunion

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Graduates of the culinary arts and baking classes and friends gather for a group photo at their get-together held Aug. 1 at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

An ordinary, livelihood course has turned into a source of lasting friendships for former students of the culinary arts and baking classes of the Philippine Consulate General when they gathered for a reunion on Aug. 1 at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe.

The classes are only two of the various livelihood courses being offered on a regular basis by the Consulate General through the Philippine Overseas Labor Office on the ground floor of the Nauru Building.

Although the culinary arts apprentices graduated from their course a month ago and the baking class finished last year, majority of these students still manage to keep in touch with one another and bond in other activities.

"We still call each other even though the class already ended. Sometimes, we would have mini-reunions," said Ethel Baskinas, who has been on Saipan for five years and graduated from the baking class in September.

Celia Tabing, who also took up the baking class, said she is happy about the friendships that were formed while learning new things.

"I'm happy and I plan to enroll in the cake decorating class as well," added the head seamstress of Saipan Tailor Shop,

The comradeship among these former students has been so solid and strong that POLO officer Rey Tayag decided to organize the get-together on Sunday, with the support of the consulate as well as the former students.

Sunday's event was a potluck occasion for the graduates who volunteered to showcase their culinary skills in preparing a wide array of popular Filipino dishes.

It was a hearty feast of adobo, dinuguan, pansit bihon, kaldereta, lechon kawali, bopis, lechong baboy, palabok, coupled with an assortment of appetizing Pinoy desserts.

Fe Elenzano, another former student, shared with *Saipan Tribune* the "wonderful feeling" when the fruits of their hard work are appreciated and all their efforts pay off.

Elenzano was referring to the successful project of the combined classes when they prepared the buffet for the Philippine Independence Day celebration last June 13.

The feast prepared by the students received the admiration of guests, including foreign dignitaries.

Course instructors

Ofelia S. Lopez, the instructor for the baking class, has always marveled at the close ties among her students.

Due to her former students' insistent demand and to give opportunity to others, Lopez plans to conduct a cake decorating class this month or next.

Fiesta Resort chef Hermie Coronejo, culinary arts teacher, said the gathering last Sunday was a celebration of a successful livelihood course.

Coronejo, who became a student himself when he took up the fruit carving course, said he is amazed at the closeness of his former students.

'So far, so good'

According to Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, they are happy that Filipinos on Saipan are motivated to attend the livelihood courses that they offer. "I cannot ask for more," he added.

Macaraig said these courses help Filipinos open their mind to the various possibilities that await them, engaging them in different interests that can assist them should they plan to put up their own businesses here or in the Philippines.

"We will continue to offer these classes. These are for them," he said.

Aside from the classroom lessons, Macaraig said they also have DVDs about different entrepreneurial ventures from which Filipinos on island can learn.

Topics range from tilapia cultivation to taking care of goats. Viewing of the DVDs is upon request, he added.

Macaraig encourages all those who have graduated from these livelihood courses to "take it to the next level" and "apply what they learned" by doing the necessary preparations to start an actual business.

He said graduates should start thinking about doing feasibility studies on their chosen business and figure out where to obtain capital so they will have an alternative to being contract workers.

Philippine airport blast kills 2, wounds governor

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine governor who led a military campaign against Muslim militants said Friday he believed he was the target of a bombing at a southern airport that grazed him and killed two other people, including one of the attackers.

About two dozen other people were wounded, one seriously, late Thursday when the blast ripped through the arrival gate as passengers — including Sulu Gov. Sakur Tan — were leaving the Zamboanga city airport.

Police said one of two assailants was carrying the explosives in his backpack, and they were investigating whether they went off prematurely or were triggered remotely. There is no history of suicide bombings in the Philippines, which has grappled with a decades-long Muslim insurgency in the country's restive south.

Police did not immediately provide any details about the second suspected attacker.

U.S. Ambassador Harry Thomas, who was supposed to visit Zamboanga on Friday, said he postponed the trip because it would be a burden to security personnel investigating the attack. He offered U.S. assistance in the probe.

"I deplore this heinous crime that victimized ordinary travelers," Thomas said in a statement. He had been due to fly to the airport.

Zamboanga, a major economic and transport hub on southern Mindanao Island, has been targeted before in bombings by the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group, which is notorious for kidnappings and beheadings. It is on the U.S. list of terrorist organizations, and the U.S. military has deployed special forces to the region to help train and arm Filipino troops fighting the militants.

Tan, governor of Sulu island province—an Abu Sayyaf stronghold south of Zamboanga—sustained a small wound near his ribs when the blast went off as he and other passengers disembarked from a plane arriving from Manila, about 540 miles (860 kilometers) north of Zamboanga. He was later discharged from hospital.

"I believe I was the target," Tan told reporters, saying the device went off just a yard (meter) away from him. "I saw the flash very clearly."

An enemy of the Abu Sayyaf militants, he has been targeted before. He escaped unharmed when a bomb-rigged motorcycle exploded near his convoy in Sulu in May last year. A town mayor and at least three security escorts were wounded in that attack.

On Friday, Tan suggested his political rivals could be connected to terrorists but did not elaborate. "I have received intelligence reports that I would be bombed again, in Zamboanga or Sulu or Manila. Not only bombed, they may even use a rocket-propelled grenade," he said.

Newly elected President Benigno Aquino III, facing his first security crisis since assuming office in June, condemned the violence and ordered authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice, said his spokesman, Edwin Lacierda.

AP

Police investigators examine the site where a powerful explosion occured outside the Zamboanga city airport in Zamboanga, southern Philippines, Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010 killing one person and wounding about a dozen others, including Governor Sakur Tan of Sulu province.

Zamboanga blast not a suicide bombing—police

By JULIE ALIPALA
INQUIRER MINDANAO

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines—The explosion outside the arrival area of the Zamboanga International Airport here was not a suicide bombing, police authorities said Friday.

The explosion, which killed two people and wounded 24 others including Sulu Governor Abdusakur Tan, prompted US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr. to cancel his scheduled trip here on Friday.

"Definitely it's not a case of suicide bombing," said Senior Superintendent Edwin Deocampo, acting Zamboanga City police chief.

Deocampo said they have also established the identity of the man who was instantly killed in the explosion and was believed to have been carrying the explosive in his backpack.

Deocampo said the man was Reynaldo Atilado, a carpenter who lived in Sitio (sub-village) Caragasan in Barangay (village) Maasin here.

Deocampo said the authorities suspected that Atilado was carrying the bomb in a backpack when it suddenly went off around 6 p.m.

Atilado appeared to be waiting for somebody or something when the explosion occurred, he said.

"Atilado could have carried a bag or a baggage with explosives and he might be unaware of it because based on the force of explosion, the bomb went off from his behind," Deocampo said.

He said the explosion dismembered Atilado's body.

Deocampo said the authorities were trying to establish the link between Atilado and the other fatality, Hatimil Harun Yacub of Barangay Baluc-baluc in Lantawan, Basilan.

Yacub died while undergoing treatment at the Brent Hospital.

Witnesses told investigators that Yacub was about one meter away from Atilado when the blast occurred.

On the theory that Atilado was after Tan, Deocampo said the police could still not establish that either.

Tan said he believed he was the target of another assassination plot.

"The explosion was right next to me," he said.

Tan said he already escaped several attempts on his life, including a bomb attack just outside the Sulu provincial capitol on May 13, 2009.

He also said he believed it was a suicide bomb attack.

"It was most like a suicide bombing. I was so close to where the explosion occurred," said Tan, who was among the plane passengers that arrived here shortly before the blast.

But Deocampo maintained it was not a suicide bomb attack.

"If he intended to target somebody, he could have placed the bomb or carried the bag on his front, facing the passengers coming out of the arrival terminal. But the bag was on his back," he said.

Deocampo said it was even possible that Atilado had no idea he was carrying a bomb.

Task Force Zamboanga commander Colonel Santiago Baluyot also rejected the suicide bomb attack angle.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Massacre suspect nabbed in Maguindanao

MANILA, Philippines—A suspect in the Maguindanao massacre was arrested by police in the province, according to reports reaching the national police headquarters Friday. The suspect was identified as Butukan Malang alias Datukan Malang Salibo. He was arrested at around 1:40 p.m. last Wednesday at his hideaway in Barangay (village) Bagan, Guindalagan, Maguindanao. The arrest of Malang was carried out by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, members of the Datu Hoofer police station and Maguindanao police based on a warrant issued on April 21 by Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes, the reports said. No bail was recommended for the release of Malang. Authorities have offered a P250,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Malang and other suspects in the slaughter. He is currently detained at the Datu Hoofer municipal police station and would be transferred to the custody of Reyes' court after being processed by the authorities. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

DPWH engineer killed in Cebu; suspect nabbed

CEBU CITY, Philippines—An official of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Cebu died after he was waylaid by armed men near his home at past 7 p.m. Thursday, with one of the suspects being arrested Friday, according to police and radio reports. Radio dzMM quoted police as saying that an unidentified suspect in the shooting of Ciriaco Salazar, 49, a DPWH project engineer, has been arrested and placed under police custody. Salazar was on his way home in Villa Del Rio Uno Subdivision in Barangay (village) Bacayan when he was ambushed. He was driving his maroon Isuzu Crosswind with his wife on the front passenger seat when two men on a motorcycle suddenly appeared on the driver's side and pumped bullets into the car. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

'Domeng' grounds 13 domestic flights

MANILA, Philippines—Thirteen flights bound to or from Ninoy Aquino International Airport were cancelled Thursday due to bad weather brought by Tropical Depression "Domeng." Among those cancelled were a flight to Basco, Batanes, and its return trip, according to a public advisory issued at around 5 p.m. by the Manila International Airport Authority. The cancelled trips were South East Asian Airlines flights DG605/605 from Manila to Basco; and DG-005 from Manila to Caticlan in Aklan. Also cancelled were Cebu Pacific flights 5J0896/897 and 5J899/900, and Air Philippines Express flights 2P-052/071, all with Manila-Caticlan-Manila routes. Cebu Pacific flights 5J887/888 and Philippine Airlines flight PR187/188, both with the Manila-Cotabato City-Manila routes, were also cancelled. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Electricity bills to go up this month

MANILA, Philippines—Customers of the Manila Electric Co. should brace themselves for higher electricity bills this month, as the generation charge rose by 44 centavos to P6.0962 per kilowatt-hour. In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Meralco said the increase in the generation charge was due to the high cost of electricity purchased from the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market. The generation charge is the second-highest recorded this year, next to the level of P6.77 per kilowatt-hour recorded in April. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Dough cutter at P14K each & other TESDA overprice

MANILA, Philippines— Barely warming his seat, the new director general of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) has canceled procurements amounting to P112 million and ordered an inquiry into some P1 billion worth of scholarships that the agency apparently owed certain training centers and schools. Joel Villanueva, a former representative of the Cibac party-list group and a known critic of the Arroyo administration, Thursday told the Inquirer that he discovered at least two overpriced deals in his first briefing as TESDA chief on Wednesday. Among the past director generals of the state-run vocational institution are Pastor Guiao and Augusto Syjuco. "I'm no longer surprised," Villanueva said in a phone interview. "Right now, the biggest problem is the image problem. I've been hearing about hundreds, thousands, of complaints." ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

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Hiroshima mayor, China activists win 'Asian Nobel'

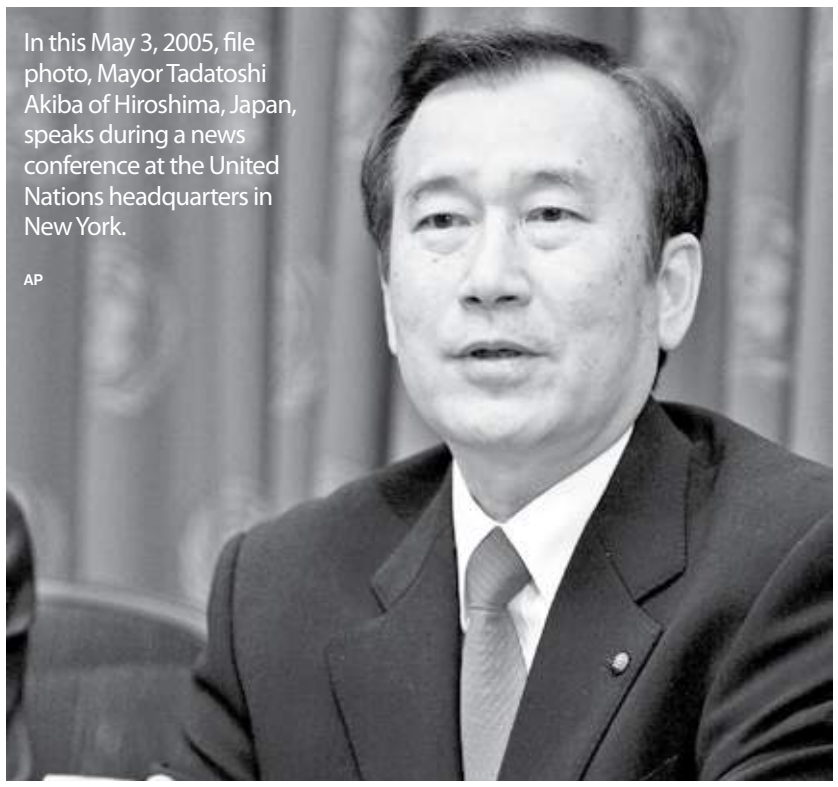
By HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The three-term mayor of Hiroshima who spearheaded a global campaign for nuclear disarmament and a photographer who documented river pollution in his native China are among the 2010 winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards.

The awards announced Monday are considered Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize. They are named after a popular Philippine president who died in a plane crash in 1957.

Tadatoshi Akiba was 3 years old when a single American atomic bomb reduced the Japanese city of Hiroshima to ashes. Wanting to keep the memory alive, Akiba had started a travel grants program through which American and other journalists visited and listened to the bomb survivors, called "hibakusha."

As a Japanese lawmaker and later Hiroshima mayor, Akiba painfully recognized that his city had the moral obligation to warn the world of the nuclear danger, the Magsaysay Award organizers said. He led a movement called "Mayors for Peace" that includes more than 4,000 cities in 144 countries.



In this May 3, 2005, file photo, Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba of Hiroshima, Japan, speaks during a news conference at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

AP

"I feel it shows a positive assessment of our efforts to realize a world free of nuclear weapons. ... It's a great honor," Akiba said of the award.

He said it encourages him to do even more to realize a world free of nuclear weapons by 2020 and that he would like to accept the award representing atomic bomb victims.

A newspaper photographer from Shenqiu in China's Henan province, Huo Daishan, 56, was so shocked by industrial pollution, poisonous fumes and dead fish in the Huai River—China's third-largest—that he started to document it, armed with a cheap camera, pen and notebook.

A one-man campaign became a full-time mission for Hou in 1998, when he organized a group called "Guardians of the Huai River" and staged his first exhibit by stringing together on a clothesline photographs of the river along a street in his village.

With more than 15,000 images, Hou eventually mounted 70 exhibitions across cities, universities and villages, exposing illegal activities of local officials and factory owners. Although harassed, he did not give up, and succeeded in linking up with local authorities and industries to install deep water wells and low-cost water filters.

His efforts resulted in some improvement although the problem of pollution remains critical, the Magsaysay Award Foundation said.

Two other Chinese from two ends of the state bureaucracy—Pan Yue, vice minister at the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and Fu Qiping, a village chief in Zheijiang province—also received awards for their "bold, constructive work in seizing and creating opportunities to address China's environmental crisis."

Other awardees are physicists Christopher Bernido and wife Maria Victoria Carpio-Bernido of the Philippines, who introduced a novel way of teaching science, and Bangladeshi A.H.M. Noman Khan, who set up service-and-training centers for helping persons with disabilities.

The awards will be formally presented Aug. 31 in Manila.

Lawsuit filed against Filipino teachers' recruiter

By MELINDA DESLATTE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana (AP)—A class-action lawsuit filed Thursday accuses a Los Angeles-based company of a human trafficking scheme to bring hundreds of Filipino teachers to Louisiana public schools using exploitative contracts that charged them excessive, illegal fees.

Universal Placement International Inc. and its owner Lourdes Navarro are accused of racketeering and fraud in a lawsuit that the American Federation of Teachers and the Southern Poverty Law Center said they filed in a California federal court on behalf of 350 teachers.

"We were herded onto a path, a slowly constricting path, where the moment you realize that something is not right, you were already past the point of no return," said Ingrid Cruz, one of the teachers named as a plaintiff in the case, reading from a prepared statement. Cruz teaches science and robotics classes at a Baton Rouge-area middle school.

The lawsuit says the company illegally required the teachers to pay thousands of dollars in fees to be hired to jobs mainly in East Baton Rouge Parish, but also in Caddo, Jefferson and other parishes and in state-run schools in New Orleans.

Teachers were saddled with crippling debts, placed into shoddy housing and threatened with deportation if they complained, said Daniel McNeil, a lawyer for the AFT, equating the conditions to forced labor and indentured servitude.

"This is far closer to slavery than we should be willing to tolerate," said Mary Bauer, legal director of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Questions to Universal Placement International about the lawsuit were directed to a Los Angeles-based attorney who didn't immediately return a phone call Thursday from The Associated Press.

Each teacher had to pay about $16,000 before ever leaving the Philippines—five times the average annual household income in the country, the lawsuit alleges. If they couldn't afford the fees, teachers borrowed money, in many instances from lenders recommended by the recruiting firm who charged hefty interest rates, attorneys for the teachers union and law center said.

More fees and expensive legal entanglements followed once the teachers arrived in the United States, the lawsuit claims, like contracts in which the teachers agreed to pay a percentage of their monthly income to Universal and fees for arranging housing. Passports and visas were confiscated to ensure the fees would be paid, the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit—also filed against Universal's sister operation in the Philippines, PARS International Placement Agency—seeks a refund of all fees paid by teachers and damages totaling millions.

Also named in the lawsuit is the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board and several current and former school system administrators, including former Superintendent Charlotte Placide. They are accused of ignoring the alleged abuses and in some cases assisting the recruiting company with illegal behavior.

"It was more than turning a blind eye. They actively participated in what was going on," Bauer said.

A spokesman for the EBR Parish School System issued a statement saying the system hasn't officially been served with the lawsuit and couldn't yet respond to the allegations.

"The school system values all of its employees and takes every precaution to ensure their tenure in our school district is a positive and mutually beneficial experience for the employee and the students they serve," said Chris Trahan, system communications director.

Complaints about Universal Placement International and Navarro date back to last October, when the Louisiana Federation of Teachers filed complaints with state authorities alleging the company was operating illegally in the state and charging the teachers exorbitant fees.

In April, a state labor department judge ordered the company to refund fees that the LFT estimates will total $1.8 million. The company's attorney said that ruling would be appealed.

4 young Filipino entrepreneurs' groups win UK 'change' contest

MANILA, Philippines—Four groups of young Filipino entrepreneurs won the British Council Philippines' "I am a change maker" competition, the British embassy here said in a news release.

Four winners were chosen out of a dozen finalists—one each from Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. A special prize was given by Starbucks to the finalist whose proposal best exemplified the values of a responsible business.

Team 3G emerged the big winner, bagging both the Visayas award and the Starbucks Shared Planet Award for their inspired idea to establish a youth cooperative engaged in guso (seaweed) farming to address problems in education, employment, and livelihood in Pangan-an Island.

In Metro Manila, the Good Food Company won for their idea to reconnect people back to the land by making them stakeholders in the work of farmers in organic production. This will not only to educate them on the values of eating organic but also to open their eyes to the plight of the farmers who work hard to produce them.

Isla Cullion Souvenirs from Luzon won for their proposal to cater to the market demand of souvenir items to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and the welfare of the Tagbanuas, the indigenous people living in the Calamianes Group of Islands. Entrepreneurs Responding through Social Service (ERSS) won in the Mindanao category for their idea to tackle problems of poverty and pollution by employing the women of Balulang, Cagayan de Oro to make bags out of used tarpaulins to help minimize waste and provide a source of income to the women of Balulang.

To help propel their business, each winning team received P100,000 as seed capital and a business incubation and mentorship scheme courtesy of Social Enterprise Development Partnerships Inc. (Sedpi). In addition, all the finalists received project management and feasibility training from Sedpi based on a curriculum designed by the Ateneo de Manila University and the National University of Singapore.

British Ambassador Stephen Lillie said that with President Benigno Aquino III's emphasis on solving social problems and dealing with inequality, "there's clearly a role for social entrepreneurs in tackling the problems which is what this [competition] is exactly about. The 'I am a change maker' competition has come at exactly the right time."

The contest is open to young entrepreneurs who could help solve problems on a community level by engaging in business with a social conscience. It encourages entrepreneurs to engage in business where it's not simply the financial bottom line that is important but takes a social dimension by giving back to the community and making use of the business opportunities within their community to affect wide-scale social change.

Ambassador Lillie personally congratulated the winners, pointing out that social entrepreneurship is not a new concept in Britain and goes back as far as the 19th century with the birth of the co-operative movement.

"This movement is still alive and strong in Britain, continuing to our present day when our new Prime Minister David Cameron talks about his idea of the big society which is very much about getting people from the community to take ownership of problems and solve them," said Lillie.

He was referring to the "Big Society" program of the British Government which is working to create a climate that empowers local people and communities to take a more active role in their communities.

The program is grounded on the premise that tackling the problems that beset a community is best done from the ground up. This climate of self-empowerment is what the "I am a change maker" competition aims to propagate. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Philippines jails, fines 13 for turtle poaching

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court has fined and sentenced 13 Vietnamese poachers to several months in prison after they were caught two years ago trying to flee with 101 critically endangered turtles, a conservationist group said Friday.

The World Wide Fund for Nature said the sentences, handed down last week in the southwestern island province of Palawan, could serve as a precedent and a strong warning to poachers from nearby countries who in the past have escaped prison time.

In the last decade more than a thousand foreigners—most of them Chinese and Vietnamese—have been arrested and charged with poaching but "sentences have historically proven rare, under fear of damaging international relations with neighboring countries," WWF said in a statement.

The Philippine navy said it nabbed the Vietnamese fishermen in 2008 after firing warning shorts during a 30-minute sea chase as they attempted to scuttle their boat by flooding the holds.

The sailors found 101 drowned Hawksbill Turtles—classified as critically endangered—in the vessel's cargo holds. To be classified as critically endangered is the highest risk rating for a living animal, WWF said.

The Puerto Princesa Regional Trial Court convicted and sentenced the fishermen to between six and 18 months in prison plus fines. The court ruled that only the fines remain to be served because the poachers have been detained since September 2008.

WWF said the 2008 catch proved one of the largest illegal wildlife hauls in the Philippines that year.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Snooky, Dina B, Maricel...Uge?

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—For her new Regal movie, "Mamarazzi," the country's hottest comedian Eugene Domingo gladly learned to ice-skate.

"Wow! It was not easy. But it's always exciting to learn something new," said Eugene, more popularly known as Uge. What she would do to be a bona fide Regal baby!

"I've been a fan of Pinoy movies ever since I can remember," she said. Regal's 1980s movies were part of her growing-up years.

"I loved the movies of Dina Bonnevie, Snooky and Maricel Soriano. I have a long way to go before I can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with these Regal babies, but to be part of Regal's anniversary is a dream-come-true," said Uge.

She has lost count of the number of Regal movies she has done—at least two "Shake, Rattle & Roll" trilogies (8 and 9), "Bahay Kubo," "My Monster Mom"—but "Mamarazzi" is her first lead role.

The big break almost didn't happen because she had a slight misunderstanding with producer Lily Monteverde over her nonparticipation in "Desperadas 2" in 2008.

"Mother Lily was kind enough to…not give up on me," she said. "I believe 'Mamarazzi' is the right project at the right time, so it's better to not dwell on the past."

She's on a roll. The sleeper hit "Kimmy Dora" was followed by a double whammy, "Working Girls 2" and "Here Comes the Bride."

How does she keep her comedy fresh? "I always experiment. I collaborate with various writers and directors. In this movie, I'm very fortunate to work with Ricky Lee, Chris Violago, Manny Valera and Direk Joel Lamangan," she said.

One of a few

Her role (a meddling mom to triplets) is a departure from her usual portrayals, she said, and she made it a point to sport an unusual look as well. "I'm wearing a l-o-n-g wig," she said.

Uge is among the rare few who can work with all three networks. She has two shows on GMA 7 ("Wachamakulit" and "Comedy Bar"), a sitcom on TV5 ("Inday Wanda") and two Metro Manila Film Fest movies with ABS-CBN's film arm Star Cinema (the animated fantasy "RPG" and the franchise "Tanging Ina 3: Last Na 'To").

"I'm naturally independent," she pointed out. "I've been living on my own since college. I value my freedom. At work, I find fulfillment when I can work with all kinds of people. That works for me, but I can't speak for all other artists."

These days, her priority is to act with the best, regardless of network affiliation. She has worked with some of the industry's brightest stars, but Uge dreams of sparring with the "greatest" like Nora Aunor, Vilma Santos and, not surprisingly, Dolphy.

She accepted a cameo in last year's "Nobody, Nobody But Juan" just to act with the country's King of Comedy. (She recently celebrated her birthday with Dolphy and his family in Hong Kong.)

Singer-actress Regine Velasquez

Regine takes lead in new indie film

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Singer-actress Regine Velasquez is making her first independently produced film under Panoramanila and Dante Nico Garcia, the producer and filmmaker behind "Ploning."

Garcia says the role is something new for Velasquez: "It's not a romantic comedy and she doesn't have a leading man." Velasquez agreed, saying, "I've never done anything like this. I always play women who are looking for love. But in Dante's movie, I'm a mother who's just trying to survive."

In the family drama titled "Mrs. Recto," Velasquez plays a woman who sells fake diplomas and other forged documents in Manila's University Belt.

Garcia said Velasquez instantly expressed interest upon hearing the story. She even volunteered to dub Garcia's "pitch video" for prospective investors. "We did it at her home recording studio," he said.

Shooting may start next month. Garcia previously directed Velasquez last year in a cameo for "OMG," her boyfriend Ogie Alcasid's comedy film with Judy Ann Santos last year. "I hope Juday will guest in this film," Garcia said, "because it's set in 1994, the peak of one of her TV shows."

Tax case vs John Lloyd junked

MANILA, Philippines—A Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court has junked a tax case against actor John Lloyd Cruz filed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue for Cruz's alleged failure to show his account books.

In an order, Judge Alfredo Ampuan of MTC Branch 33 dismissed the case for violation of the Tax Reform Act of 1997 against Cruz for lack of probable cause.

The BIR had alleged that Cruz failed to present his book of accounts for 2004 despite the BIR's summons. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Aljur 'intimidated' by Rhian

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—I turned into a high school girl when I met Aljur Abrenica for the first time. He's even more gorgeous in person.

Isn't he wary that he might get into trouble with DJ Mo if he gets closer than close to his new leading lady, Rhian Ramos?

"Di ko ata kayang ligawan si Rhian," he explained. "Dyahe ako sa kaniya. I'm intimidated. So no way na magclash kami ni Mo. But I hope mag-click ang experimental team-up namin."

Doesn't he miss his love team with Kris Bernal? "Of course I do," he said. "But mabuti na rin di kami matali sa isa't isa. Para we can spread our horizons. But in time, gagawa kami uli ng project together."

Is it true that he's courting Kim Chiu? "Nagulat ako when that news came out," he said. "It's not true at all, though I've met Kim and Gerald na. Gerald is inviting me to play basketball with him. Friends kami. Network lang naman ang may rivalry."

Gender bender

People have long been in doubt of Uma Khouny's sexuality. Now, he admits unabashedly that he can fall for any gender.

"It doesn't matter to me whether someone is a girl, boy, lesbian or gay," he explains. "What matters is how I feel for a person. It's not based on gender. But I don't believe in relationships. I don't want to hurt or get hurt, which is unavoidable in love. I just wanna live it up."

Has he spoken to Sam Milby about the latter's alleged love child (a 3-year-old baby girl) with his sister Rose? "Not yet," he says. "But for the sake of my sister and her baby who I am raising like my own, I would rather not comment on the issue anymore. I've said too much. Only my sister knows for sure who the father is."

To put the controversy to rest once and for all, perhaps Sam should take a paternity test and a polygraph test as well.

Turning atheist?

I was floored when a very popular TV host told me that he's two steps away from becoming an atheist. I snapped back: "Aren't you thankful for all the good breaks coming your way?" He retorted, "Screw that!"

Faith is a personal thing. I don't want to sound holier-than-thou. But I hope the host realizes that he should never be too busy counting his money to count his blessings.

Tearful Mura

The midget comedian-actor Mura was moved to tears when Willie Revillame relayed a message through Tita Cristy Fermin in "Paparazzi": Willy said he will shoulder all the medical expenses of Mura, who had figured in a vehicular accident.

As the family breadwinner, Mura wants to recover soon so he can go back to work.

It was Willie who discovered Mura and gave him a big break in the defunct "Magandang Tanghali Bayan."

Most promising

Frencheska Farr is overjoyed that she was named Most Promising Singer/Performer of 2010 at the recent Guillermo Mendoza Memorial Awards. The "Next Big Star" Grand Champion of GMA 7 is looking forward to doing more films after landing the lead role in the movie-musical "Emir," produced by the Film Development Council of the Philippines and the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Aljur Abrenica

Record deal

Cesar Montano and Vic Jose, a record industry whiz, are prodding Sunshine Cruz to record an album.

Shine comes from a family of musicians. No night is complete in Buboy and Shine's resto, Bellisimo, without a song or two from Shine.

During our recent dinner there, we requested Shine to sing OPM classics that would be part of her album, if it materializes. Of course it will include a duet with Buboy.

Shine surprised Buboy on his birthday with an Hermes belt and three pairs of True Religion jeans. "Ubos ang savings ko," Shine says, laughing. "But I love seeing him happy. His birthday gift to me na dream bag ko, six months to a year pa ang delivery. Advantage daw for him so he can save up for it."

Overjoyed

Mariel Rodriguez is overjoyed about "Pilipinas Win na Win," her new show with Kris Aquino, Robin Padilla, Valerie Concepcion and Pokwang. "I am pressured and excited," she gushes. "All the emotions are in. I'm grateful that ABS-CBN is giving me the opportunity to give joy and total fun to noontime viewers."

Doesn't she feel guilty that "Wowowee's" main host Willie Revillame isn't part of the show? "I respect the decision of the network," she says. "I am just a soldier following orders."

Isn't she wary of clashing with Kris, who is Binoe's ex and she his current girl? "Ate Kris is like an older sister to me," Mariel explains. "I love her dearly."

Mega-drama moments

Sharon Cuneta was in her element when Ruffa Gutierrez interviewed her in "Paparazzi." The Megastar is all agog over her latest album with Sony Music, "Musika at Pag-ibig", and her major concert, "Megadrama" at the Araneta Coliseum on Aug 7.

Both the album and the concert pay tribute to OPM songs and Pinoy composers. "Megadrama" will be a retelling of Sharon's story: an actress, a mother, a wife, a daughter, a friend—woven with parallel stories, told in different ways.

Well, did she or didn't she?

MANILA, Philippines—Tabloid reports: Kim Chiu attempted suicide. Denials came swiftly. From Thess Gubi of Star Magic: "We are laughing it off. Kim has so much to live for." Bong Osorio of ABS-CBN Corporate Communications: "Kim was on 'ASAP'–bubbly as ever." ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Maharlika – Opinyon

The promise of closure

The much-awaited executive order creating a special body to investigate scandalous cases of graft and corruption committed during the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is finally out. Last July 30, a full month after he took office, President Aquino issued Executive Order No. 1 establishing "The Truth Commission of 2010." In an instant, Arroyo's allies reacted by questioning the legality of the order, calling it a usurpation of institutional functions. They charged that an investigative body like this cannot be created by mere executive fiat. The President, they warned, should ask Congress to pass a law.

I find it odd that these critics found nothing constitutionally objectionable in Administrative Order No. 78, issued by then President Arroyo on July 30, 2003, creating the "Feliciano Fact-Finding Commission" to investigate the so-called Oakwood Mutiny and the causes of military grievances. Or Administrative Order No. 157, issued on Aug. 21, 2006, creating the "Melo Fact-Finding Commission" to look into the killings of media workers and activists. Not one of them accused Arroyo of usurping a legislative function or of creating a redundant body.

Just to drive home the point: Don't both houses of Congress routinely launch investigations and hearings "in aid of legislation," which quite often are already being investigated by other government agencies? In all such instances, they do not seem to mind that precious public funds and resources are consumed in these investigations.

In fact, EO No. 1 springs no surprises. I don't understand why it took so long to write it. Cutting through the verbiage, one finds that the so-called "Truth Commission of 2010" is basically a fact-finding body that is no different from other special commissions created by past administrations. Its primary task is "to conduct a thorough fact-finding investigation of reported cases of graft and corruption… during the previous administration and thereafter recommend the appropriate action or measure to be taken…" I find nothing illegal, or extraordinary, or so complex in this order that would warrant judicial intervention. The only difference I can see is that whereas the Feliciano and Melo commissions were created by an administrative order (AO), it took an executive order (EO) to create the Truth Commission of 2010. I've read the Administrative Code, but, I have to admit, I don't understand where the substantial distinction between an AO and an EO lies.

Public Lives

By RANDY DAVID

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

It goes without saying that such a commission can be created by Congress as well. The first Davide Commission of 1987, mandated to investigate the failed coup of December 1989 and to recommend measures to prevent military adventurism, was initially authorized by AO 146. An act of Congress, RA 6832, subsequently affirmed its creation. Nothing stops Congress, if it is so minded, from doing the same with respect to the Truth Commission of 2010.

But, President Noynoy has opted not to rely on Congress to pass such a law. People who have watched how Congress operates would easily understand why. Given the present state of our political system, perhaps the best way to kill any reform initiative is to submit it to Congress.

Do we need a truth commission to find out what really happened in the many controversial cases involving the Arroyo presidency that were left unresolved because political power was used to suppress the necessary information? That is the main question. The decision to create one is certainly political, but that is not something to apologize for. It is one of the campaign promises of the new President, and many are happy to see that he seems determined to keep his promises. President Noynoy is clearly prepared to stake the legitimacy of his presidency on the correctness of this decision. Let those who oppose him on this also challenge it in Congress and in the public arena.

Is the President reading the public pulse correctly? Or is this move nothing but a manifestation of a divisive triumphalist streak? As a student of politics, I am fully aware that a president is expected to be the source and focal point of political integration. In this role, he must leave behind the antagonism of the electoral campaign and begin to harness the collective will and power of the nation in order to achieve long-term national prosperity and stability. But, the reality is that, to be able to do this, he must help our people overcome their skepticism about government so they can be active partners in the country's development. Over the years, our people have become indifferent to the demands of citizenship. They demand answers to questions that their leaders tend to bury once they are in power. That is what a truth commission is for.

The commission will have fulfilled its mission if, at the end of its work, it is able to provide straightforward accounts of what happened in at least three crucial cases: (1) the "Hello, Garci" scandal and allegations of cheating in the 2004 presidential election, (2) the use of fertilizer funds in Arroyo's 2004 campaign, and (3) the NBN-ZTE deal.

Such accounts, I think, will go a long way in producing what Filipinos call "closure." The sense we give to this word is not very far from what it means in psychology: "the state of experiencing an emotional conclusion to a difficult life event." For us, closure is being able to gain enough understanding of what really happened under Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency, so that we may regain the capacity to trust our leaders and thus, to hope once more.

EDITORIAL

How far we've come

President Aquino'S speech at the 60th anniversary celebration of GMA Network last week is said to have thrilled the celebrator. Mr. Aquino congratulated GMA-TV for its staying power; during the dark and dangerous years of martial law, he said, it "persisted in keeping the public informed despite the risks of censorship" and "kept the flickering light of truth alive." He also lauded it as the only TV station that covered the assassination of his father, Benigno Aquino Jr., then returning from exile on Aug. 21, 1983, and the subsequent wake and funeral that galvanized the smoldering resistance to the Marcos dictatorship.

"I'm not just a viewer. As your President, I am your partner," Mr. Aquino said. "This administration will defend your right to free expression. This administration will accept criticism from you."

In inviting his specific audience to "be part of this difficult but worthwhile journey of turning our country around," Mr. Aquino enlisted its help in accurately portraying the state of the nation and what his constituency could do to share the burden in the next six years. The invitation, necessarily extended to journalists in general, partakes of his simple yet consistently powerful message—that he derives his strength from the people he serves, and that ultimately everyone is in this together.

But to achieve the goal of presenting an accurate picture of the nation's state of affairs in order to right the wrongs that hobble its progress, journalists will be greatly empowered by the passage of the Freedom of Information Act. Intended to promote transparency and good governance, it requires all government officials to make public all state records as well as their own statements of assets, liabilities and net worth, particularly when public interest demands it.

The bill, all of nine years old and requiring only ratification before being submitted to the then President for signature, was effectively knocked out by her allies in the House on its last session day on June 4, with then Speaker Prospero Nograles yielding to Camiguin Rep. Pedro Romualdo's question on the purported absence of a quorum and adjourning the session.

It is incumbent on concerned lawmakers to sponsor the bill and get the tedious process going again.

In his speech, Mr. Aquino mentioned the media's "right and obligation to encourage public discourse." He posed the hope that this discourse would lead to consensus and thence to action, the kind that leaders desire but is extremely difficult to attain. His remarks, at once bold and encouraging, allow for his constituents to nurse the same hope without being forced into the sham consensus of conformity that marks oppressive regimes.

The South African writer, Nadine Gordimer, famously described freedom of expression as "the oxygen of our creativity." Her compatriot, poet Mongane Wally Serote, wrote that writers must "page for wisdom through the stubborn night," that dreadful night being politically motivated censorship.

We've endured one dictatorship and a regime that is said to have toyed with the idea of another. If this President now promises to defend journalists' and writers' right to free expression, think of how far we've come. We will gratefully take him at his word and constantly hold him to it.

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'Food and memory'

Every year foodies from around the world congregate in the United Kingdom for the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery. Founded in 1979 by Theodore Zeldin and Alan Davidson, the symposium gathers people who not only eat food, but explore its history and context. Arranged thematically, this year's symposium will discuss fermented food.

If I had the time and the funds perhaps I would have presented a paper on bagoong, which is mentioned in accounts of the Philippines as early as the 17th century. As a matter of fact, in one of Rizal's annotations to Antonio de Morga's 1609 "Sucesos de las islas Filipinas," our hero disputed Morga by explaining that our ancestors did not eat rotten and stinking fish, rather they had fermented fish paste, which was bagoong.

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I was introduced to the Oxford symposium by the late Doreen Fernandez who put us on the map of food scholarship through her research, writings and her attendance at the symposium. She even hand-carried food for show-and-tell. When they discussed nuts, Doreen brought fresh pili. Thus, Philippine entries in the Oxford Companion to Food are by Doreen.

"Food and memory" was the theme for the symposium in 2000. Doreen and I sent our papers ahead but had to cancel our trip because she was not well. Both of us spoke about the food and cooks of a small town in Pampanga that is almost extinct. The place was called Sulipan, and the meals that have gone down in history were spread in the home of the Arnedo family that hosted visiting royalty in the late 19th century and the Taft Commission in the early 20th century. It seems that one of their cooks participated in producing the wonderful meals for the short-lived Malolos Republic. The most celebrated party is the one recorded in Frederick Sawyer's "Inhabitants of the Philippines" (1900) that said:

"A ball at a big Pampanga house is a sight that will be remembered. Capitan Joaquin Arnedo Cruz of Sulipan, on the Rio Grande, a wealthy native sugar planter, used to assemble in his fine house the principal people of the neighborhood to meet royal or distinguished guests... Capitan Joaquin possessed a magnificent porcelain table service of two hundred pieces, specially made and marked with his monogram, sent him by a prince who had enjoyed his hospitality. He gave a ball for the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia who afterwards declared that the room presented one of the most brilliant sights he had ever seen. This from the son of an emperor might seem an exaggeration, but brilliant is the only word that can describe the effect produced on the spectator by the bright costumes and sparkling jewelry of the women."

Entertaining on a grand scale added prestige to the host and his people. In this case, it was Arnedo and the Pampangos. Of course, these accounts were probably exaggerated by the overwhelmed and appreciative guests, but then that is what history records, like this one from Daniel Williams' "Odyssey of the Philippine Commission" (1913):

"Our arrival was the signal for an early visit from the village presidente and other leading citizens... There was also a procession of native women bearing gifts of fruits, dulces and various eatables such being the costumbre del pais in the old days when the Spanish shed the light of their countenance upon the provinces... We ate to the accompaniment of a native band which persisted in serenading us during the entire meal... Our reception was a royal one, the ritual hospitality of these people reduced to a fine art... Dinner was served at 8, and it was indeed a feast to remember. A great mahogany table glittered with the finest china and linen, its entire length being set off by massive bouquets, pyramids of fruits, wonderfully ornamented cakes and stands of most elaborately carved toothpicks. The number and variety of courses were amazing, creating a sense of wonder as to where and how they were all produced. There were wines of all kinds and color, the effect of which doubtless added to the conviviality of the occasion. Among the guests were the Arnedo boys—Macario and Eugenio—the young uncles of the hostesses who assumed the burden of our entertainment. Nowhere have I met more perfect and gracious hosts."

Before World War II, Victor Buencamino recalled his father taking a Japanese guest (visiting royalty) to Sulipan:

"...There was a tradition at the time that the highest gesture of esteem consisted in the hosts not allowing any other guest to use the table items such as china, silverware, glasses and linen that had been used at the banquet for an honored guest. So, to the great befuddlement of the Japanese guest, Capitan Joaquin, after offering the usual toast in florid language, forthwith ordered the waiters to hurl out the windows into a river nearby all the costly dinner sets that had been used to serve the Japanese guest."

It is said that there were nets hidden under the river and Arnedo's staff would fish out the table service when the guests had left. Buencamino heard of this but said: "Be that as it may, I can attest to the fact that the Arnedos had a flair for making you feel the splendor of supreme hospitality."

These stories seem like tall tales today, but that is what history and historians do for us: they show us a world long gone except in memory and imagination.

Comments are welcome in my Face Book Fan Page.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP) smile for the *Saipan Tribune* after welcoming the Symposium participants with Sen. Jude Hofschneider of Tinian (not in picture) at the ballroom of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino on Aug. 5, 2010.
JAIME VERGARA

TINIAN SYMPOSIUM
CNMI historian Don Farrell opens the symposium on the Manhattan Project at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino on Aug. 5, 3020, with a context on how Tinian looked like on Aug. 6, 1945.
JAIME VERGARA

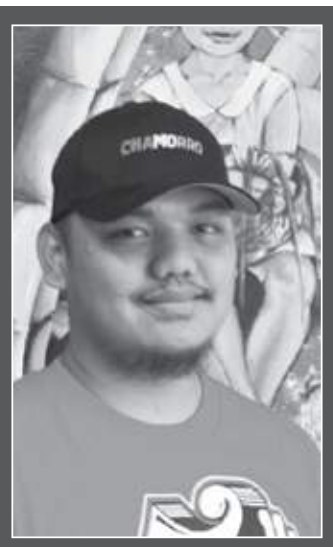
NEW POLICE OFFICER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Congratulations to Jonathan Cepeda on your Police Academy graduation and for your accomplishments throughout the six months of training. We're very proud of you and we love you daddy! Greetings come from your wife and two beautiful daughters!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TOC VOLUNTEERS
From left, Jun Lapeceros, Lou Galang, Vicky Ladia, Allan Chavez and Julius Vasquez, serve as volunteers during the Tournament of Champions held on July 31 and Aug. 1 at the Lao Lao Bay Golf Course.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
Belated birthday greetings to Christian Jolo Tengco Puri, who celebrated his 6th birthday last Saturday, July 24, 2010 at their residence in As Lito, Saipan. "Be a good boy always. May the good Lord bless you and give you more birthdays to come. We love you." Greetings coming from lolo Jo and grandma Lou.

The celebrant poses with his dad Mel, mom Jeanny, and brother Dan Albert.



Happy 21st birthday to Roque C. Indalecio aka Jager Madness, who is celebrating his special day today, Aug. 7, 2010! Here's wishing you all the fun and excitement that only birthdays can bring! From the crew!

Happy birthday greetings go out to Ryhoe Litulumar, who is celebrating his 18th birthday today, Aug. 7! Best wishes on your future education at the University of Guam. We love you and will miss you dearly! Greetings come from your loving family.

Happy birthday greetings go out to Katrina or "Kat Kat," who will be 8 years old on Sunday, Aug. 8. Greetings come from Mama and Papa, Mylene and Ronnie Guevarra. Kat Kat's two older siblings are Lester and Lawrence.

YoungStyle

Laura Dekker, center, is surrounded by media as she walks to her boat in Den Osse, south west Netherlands, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010. Fourteen year-old Laura Dekker, who hopes to become the youngest person to sail around the world by herself, and her father Dick Dekker have departed the harbor of Den Osse in her 38-foot (11.5-meter) yacht Guppy, bound for Portugal where she hopes to begin her solo attempt later this year.

AP

14-year-old Dutch sailor girl heads out to sea

AMSTERDAM (AP)—She's not afraid of pirates. She's packed plenty of school books. And she's going to miss her family and her dog, Spot.

Fourteen-year-old Laura Dekker hopped onto her boat Wednesday and sailed off from the Netherlands hoping to become the youngest person to make a solo voyage around the world.

About 100 supporters waved as Laura and her father Dick Dekker left the southern Dutch harbor of Den Osse in her 38-foot (11.5-meter) yacht Guppy, bound for Portugal where she plans to leave her father and begin her circumnavigation attempt.

Last week, Laura won a legal battle when a court released her from the guardianship of Dutch child protection agencies. They had blocked her initial plan to depart at age 13 over fears for her safety and psychological health during the trip, which will likely take around a year.

"I can be sailing now, and that's great!" she told reporters Wednesday, sporting a skull-emblazoned black T-shirt.

Dekker hoisted the black Jolly Roger-like flag of The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society above her red twin-masted ketch—the same image she wore on her shirt—before sailing out.

Laura, who was born on a yacht off the coast of New Zealand, has been working to counter objections to her voyage since the authorities stepped in last year. She got a bigger, sturdier boat, took courses in first aid and practiced coping with sleep deprivation. She also made at least one solo trip across the North Sea to England.

The Dutch court ruled that Laura's preparations were adequate and it was up to her parents, who are divorced, to decide whether to let her make the attempt. Her mother, Babs Mueller, recently withdrew her opposition to the plan.

Dekker's case has fueled a global debate over the wisdom of allowing ever-younger sailors to take on the tremendous risks of sailing the high seas alone.

If she completes the voyage, any record she claims would be unofficial and likely to be challenged. The Guinness' World Records and the World Sailing Speed Record Council have decided they will no longer recognize records for "youngest" sailors to avoid encouraging overly optimistic youths backed by ambitious parents from seeking a world record.

In June, 16-year-old American teen Abby Sunderland had to be rescued in a remote section of the Indian Ocean during an attempt to circle the globe. A huge wave snapped her mast and left her helpless until she was eventually rescued by a French fishing boat more than 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) west of Australia.

Her parents were sharply criticized for allowing her to undertake the trip—a complete turnaround from the praise the family had basked in a year earlier when Abby's older brother Zac successfully captured the world record for youngest solo circumnavigator at age 17.

Three months ago, Australian Jessica Watson, completed a 210-day voyage on her 34-foot (10-meter) yacht, Ella's Pink Lady, around the world at age 16.

But while Watson remained at sea nonstop, Laura plans to stop at dozens of ports along the way to meet her family, rest, stock up and make boat repairs. She hasn't ruled out returning home to catch up on her studies if necessary before resuming her trip.

Laura conceded her trip "is a little bit different as the old ones, because they do it nonstop and I will do with stops."

Asked whether she was afraid of pirates in the Gulf of Aden, she said no, she expected to travel in a protected convoy through that area.

"Most people say it is a big problem, but there are so many yachts that will get in this water, and then we will sail all together," she said.

Although she appeared to be living the dream of every teen—to escape the parents—Laura knew there would be some things she would miss in her months at sea.

"My dog. My family," she said in response to a reporter's question.

Laura Dekker hoists a flag of The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society on her boat in the harbor of Den Osse, southwest Netherlands, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010.

AP

Kids of 9/11 dead camp with teen victims of terror

DUBLIN (AP)—Teenagers who lost loved ones in acts of terror and civil strife worldwide are camping together this week in Northern Ireland as they learn to move beyond their grief—and become peacemakers themselves.

The project, sponsored chiefly by the post-9/11 charity Tuesday's Children, involves 65 teens who have lost parents or other relatives in a wide range of terror attacks and ethnic conflicts.

Half of the campers had family members killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, al-Qaida attacks on the World Trade Center. Some come from opposite sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Others are Spaniards targeted by the Basque separatist group ETA.

Alongside arts, crafts, sports and tourism, the kids are receiving trauma counseling and coaching from Harvard Law School specialists in the arts of negotiation and mediation.

The kids don't all speak English, and their daily lives might be worlds apart. But veterans of the annual camp—called Project Common Bond, and being held outside the United States for the first time—say such differences are minor compared to what they share.

AP

In this photo taken Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2010, Juliette Candela, left, takes a photograph of her friends Frankie Giamona, center, and Toni Giamona during a visit to the peace walls in West Belfast, Northern Ireland. Teenagers who lost loved ones in acts of terror worldwide are camping together this week in Northern Ireland as they learn to move beyond their grief, and become peacemakers themselves.

"A lot of the most important communication in these camps is nonverbal. I experienced it straight on and it's extraordinary," said New York native Caitlin Leavey, 19, who participated in the two U.S. camps as well as the Belfast gathering. "The language barrier does not take away from creating friendships."

Her father, Lt. Joseph G. Leavey, died on 9/11 when he led firefighters from Ladder 15 into the south tower of the World Trade Center before its collapse.

Leavey said she's trying to honor her father's memory by training to become a conflict-resolution expert—both formally as a sophomore at New York University and informally by making friends in faraway conflict zones.

"Dad was always big about community and talking to everyone. He loved saving people," she said. "The Common Bond camps are all about that too. You help people who've been through terrible hurts to open up, to relieve themselves of this burden. It's still hard for me to talk about losing my father but I'm trying, and at the camp you find yourself surrounded by young people in exactly the same boat as yourself. It's powerful."

From their weeklong base at Queen's University in Belfast, the campers expect to learn from their Northern Ireland hosts, who are emerging from nearly four decades of conflict that left 3,700 dead and maimed tens of thousands more.

Britain's secretary of state for Northern Ireland, Owen Paterson, invited the campers to the government headquarters Wednesday on a hill overlooking Belfast and lauded their resilience.

"The contrast between the positive hope and inspiration of these young people and the emptiness of those who visited evil upon them could not be more stark," he said.

On Tuesday, the campers and 35 counselors toured the famed murals that enliven rival British Protestant and Irish Catholic districts of Belfast - tough neighborhoods still separated by dozens of high security walls called "peace lines." Even some of the Northern Ireland campers, hailing from rural towns and villages with their own murderous legacies, had never seen them in person.

"People are worried that `the troubles' could return," said Davina Whiteside, 17, a camper from Armagh, Northern Ireland.

In 1975 an Irish Republican Army gunman killed her grandfather Joe, a part-time British soldier, on the doorstep of the family home in front of Davina's mother. She was born the year before the IRA's first lengthy ceasefire in 1994 inspired a slow-blooming peace process.

That peace today is far from perfect. Much of Northern Ireland remains divided on political, cultural and religious lines, and truce-breaking IRA dissidents remain active in targeting police and soldiers.

Hours before the campers toured Belfast, IRA dissidents detonated a car bomb outside the main police station in Londonderry, a city on the other side of Northern Ireland, damaging buildings but injuring nobody. On Wednesday an army officer found a booby-trap bomb under his car.

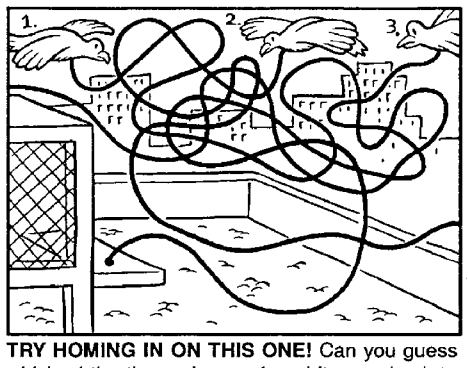
"Recently a lot of trouble has been bubbling up with the IRA dissidents. I don't know if the conflict has truly been solved. There's lots of ifs and buts," Whiteside said. "I worry sometimes that people from my side of the community will decide to fight back again like before. The one side here always wants to provoke the other."

Whiteside, who also attended last year's camp in Pennsylvania, said the Tuesday's Children camps are special because she feels free to share her deepest feelings and fears.

"My mother and sisters were never able to talk so openly like this," Whiteside said. "In Common Bond you're actually given space and freedom to express how you're feeling, which is not the done thing in Northern Ireland."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



TRY HOMING IN ON THIS ONE! Can you guess which of the three pigeons found its way back to the coop?

Answer: Pigeon number 3.

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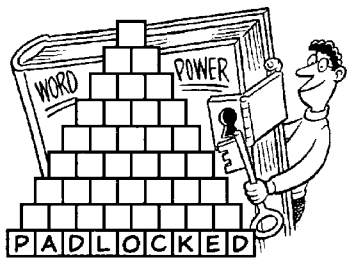

PYRAMID OF WORD POWER! You have three minutes to unlock the secrets of Word Power! Starting with the given word PADLOCKED, at the bottom of our pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters, at each level, spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order.

1. A secured gate.
2. To bring negotiations to a standstill.
3. A well-dressed superhero.
4. Needed something.
5. A car window decoration.
6. Covered with a metal skin.
7. An ungentlemanly individual.
8. A public notice.
9. Lowest passing grade.

Answers: (from the bottom up): 1. Padlocked. 2. Deadlock. 3. Cloaked. 4. Lacked. 5. Decal. 6. (Iron)Clad. 7. Cad. 8. Ad. 9. D.

A CONEY ISLAND RED-HOT STUMPER! See if you can cut the mustard on this AlphaMath problem. You must replace the letters in the board with the digits 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. Try to get the highest possible total.

Our Answer: R=7, O=4, L=2, B=9, E=6, F=1, A=0, N=8, K=3 (7422 + 9661 = 17083).

IT'S A "SIN" IF YOU DON'T GET THEM ALL! In this puzzle all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with SIN. Some hints are:

1. SIN (in place).
2. To inform against (slang).
3. Between then and now.
4. Burns the ends off.
5. Found on fishnets.
6. A monotonous voice tone.

1. SIN
2. SIN_
3. SIN__
4. SIN___
5. SIN____
6. SIN_____

Answers: 1. Sin. 2. Sing. 3. Since. 4. Singes. 5. Sinkers. 6. Singsong.

Illustrated by David Coulson

Asthmatic cat needs veterinarian's opinion

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I was wondering what kind of medicine to give a cat that has asthma. My cat "Jack" had an asthma attack last night. Are there any home remedies I can use?—Cathy S., via e-mail

DEAR CATHY: Only your veterinarian can determine the right medicine to give to your cat. It's very important that you take Jack to the vet for a complete checkup in the next few days. (If he seems distressed or continues to have trouble breathing, take him to vet right away.)

Tell the vet the symptoms Jack had during his asthma attack—any wheezing, distress or odd behavior before the attack, and any weakness or lethargy before, during or after. If he has shown the symptoms before, describe when they occurred and the intensity.

Don't try to diagnose Jack's problem yourself, and don't try a home remedy until a proper diagnosis has been made. There are some very important reasons for this. First, cats can "wheeze" due to something as benign as a hairball, or as serious as an undiagnosed heart problem. Only your vet can tell. Second, the type of problem, and its extent, is a big part of determining what medicine to give the cat. Only your vet can do this.

This is not to put down home remedies for pets. Many owners swear by homeopathic remedies developed to treat common pet issues like anxiety, and every cat owner knows how most cats react to catnip—an herb that can be grown on a windowsill. But most acute illnesses need professional medical diagnosis and treatment so Jack can recover quickly and return to a healthy norm.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was librarian and essayist Frederick Saunders who made the following sage observation: "Pride, like laudanum and other poisonous medicines, is beneficial in small, though injurious in large, quantities. No man who is not pleased with himself, even in a personal sense, can please others."

■ Earthquakes occur at a rate of roughly one every minute around the world. About eight of those every year are considered to be major, registering above 7.0 on the Richter Scale.

■ If you're a sailor you're probably familiar with the hazards of being out on the water: high seas, storms, hidden reefs. You probably wouldn't count whales among the dangers, but you'd be wrong. It seems that on a recent day sail out of Table Bay Harbor in South Africa, a couple on a 30-foot sailboat were whale-watching when one got too close for comfort. A 40-ton whale they had been viewing breached right next to the boat and landed on the deck, breaking off the mast and then thrashing around before sliding back into the water. The whale lost some skin and blubber, but was otherwise unharmed; the couple were lucky to still have a seaworthy craft and made it safely back to the harbor.

■ Statistics show that the average 5-year-old boy today weighs about 10 percent more and the average 5-year-old girl about 8 percent more than children of the same age in the 1980s.

■ Those who study such things say that the word "daisy" started out as "day's eye" and was shortened over the years. Similarly, "God be with you" became "goodbye" and "whole be thou" became "hello."

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "To avoid situations in which you might make mistakes may be the biggest mistake of all."—Peter McWilliams

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MAGIC MAZE ● STRAIT(S) OF —

A H E C Z X U S Q N L J G E C
G I B R A L T A R S Z X V T R
P N L J H E O N C I A Y W D V
O T R P A C N I L A K F I O G
E T C B Z N A A C L X L W V U
S R N P O (S I N G A P O R E) M
L J I A O G G S I C F R E R D
B Z U M R O H A S K Y I X O W
U F R O C T U T S E C D N H Q
P O E O N L O K J H M A G O F
F G D C B N A L L E G A M J B

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Anian	Dover	Hormuz	Messina
Bonifacio	Florida	Johor	Otranto
Calais	Formosa	Mackinac	Singapore
Corfu	Georgia	Magellan	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		x		26
−		÷		+	
	+		x		25
x		x		+	
	+		+		21
16		21		13	

2 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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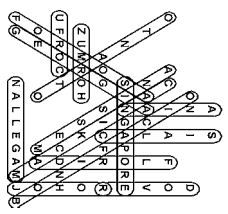
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



STRAIT(S) OF —

GO FIGURE ANSWER

4	+	9	x	2	26
−		÷		+	
2	+	3	x	5	25
x		x		+	
8	+	7	+	6	21
16		21		13	

Summer weekends are made for families

Summer days are skipping by, but there is still plenty of time for creative learning adventures and fun with your kids, especially on the weekends. Add these simple ideas to your list of Saturday activities, and you'll always have something fun to do.

ABC STONES

Collect pretty rocks and pebbles from nature walks or strolls along the beach. When you return home, create "ABC" stones. Rinse off rocks if needed, and let dry thoroughly. Paint a design and images on the large ones with acrylic paints. Or, use permanent markers to write single words or alphabet letters on the flat side of each rock. Arrange them in a row to write a poem, sentence, name or word. Store the stones in a decorated box and place on your kitchen table, ready to use whenever you feel inspired.

NURTURE CREATIVITY

Play a game by looking around your home together with different "glasses." In other words, think about ways you can use an object you see for something other than its intended use. Empty tin cans on the kitchen counter? Turn them upside down, and they could be jungle drums. Plastic drinking cups? Hold them up to your eyes for "alien" goggles. See how many new things you can create with ordinary items.

GET ORGANIZED

Sort through closets, cupboards and drawers. Donate children's books and magazines you no longer use to a community center or children's hospital.

GARDEN SURPRISE

Provide an incentive of weeding the family vegetable plot. Hide tiny tokens among the crabgrass and the dandelions. Tokens can be exchanged for

rewards, such as a walk to the playground, a swim at the lake or a bike ride to a favorite destination.

SING-ALONG

On a weekend jaunt in the country, sing together in the car. Make the harmonizing extra fun by making up new lyrics to favorite songs. For example, to the tune of the song "The Wheels on the Bus," you might create "the berries in the field are red and sweet." Other traditional songs that work well are "Oh! Susanna" and "She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain."

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Naomi Campbell denies receiving blood diamonds

LEIDSCHENDAM, Netherlands (AP)—Fashion icon Naomi Campbell countered allegations that former Liberian ruler Charles Taylor gave her a fistful of diamonds as a flirtatious gift, telling his war crimes trial Thursday that a pouch of "very small, dirty-looking stones" was delivered to her room in the dark of night.

The famously petulant supermodel's testimony did not provide the smoking gun prosecutors had sought to show Taylor traded in so-called "blood diamonds" to arm rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone. But her appearance drew attention to Africa's deadly conflicts and the illegal use of resources to finance war.

Campbell was calm and composed as she denied knowingly receiving a gift of diamonds from Taylor after a celebrity-studded 1997 dinner at Nelson Mandela's presidential mansion in South Africa.

Instead, she said she was awakened later that night by a knock on her door.

"I opened my door and two men were there and gave me a pouch and said, 'A gift for you,'" Campbell said, adding she did not know the men or what was inside the bag.

When she opened it the next morning, she said she found a few stones.

"They were kind of dirty-looking pebbles," she said, adding: "When I'm used to seeing diamonds I'm used to seeing them shiny in a box. If someone hadn't said they were diamonds I wouldn't have guessed ... that they were."

Campbell said that over breakfast fellow guests Mia Farrow and Carole White, Campbell's former agent, said the rocks must be diamonds and were probably a gift from Taylor.

"So I just assumed that they were," she said, adding: "I had never heard of Charles Taylor before, never heard of the country Liberia before, had never heard the term 'blood diamonds' before."

Prosecutors had hoped Campbell would testify that Taylor gave her the diamonds, which would back up their allegations he traded guns to rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone in exchange for uncut diamonds—known as "blood diamonds" for their role in financing conflicts—during the country's 1992-2002 civil war, which left more than 100,000 dead.

It would also have undermined Taylor's credibility, since he has denied ever trading in diamonds.

AP

In this image made from television Naomi Campbell is seen at the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone in Leidschendam, Netherlands, Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010.

Salahi's scrap at 'View' dominates 'Today' show

NEW YORK (AP)—Michaele Salahi's dustup with Whoopi Goldberg was Topic A when the alleged White House gatecrasher and her fellow cast members from "The Real Housewives of D.C." appeared on Thursday's "Today" show.

Then, an hour later on "The View," Goldberg gave her own account in this case of She-said, She-said.

The five "D.C. Housewives" were guests on NBC's "Today" to promote Thursday's premiere of the Bravo reality show.

But co-hosts Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb immediately seized on the shouting match that had erupted after Wednesday's edition of "The View" between Salahi, a guest along with the other "Housewives," and "View" co-host Goldberg.

Goldberg, who was not among the interviewers for that segment, had stepped onto the set of the ABC talk show to urge Salahi to discuss the night she and her husband allegedly crashed President Barack Obama's state dinner last fall. As she spoke to her, Goldberg could be seen by viewers touching Salahi's arm.

After the show was over, Salahi said on "Today," Goldberg confronted her sharply, using obscene language and demanding to know if she had accused Goldberg of hitting her.

The encounter brought Salahi to tears.

"I think I started crying," she said, "because now I have someone that I don't even know, I'm a guest of their show, and they're berating me" with expletives.

At the start of "The View" on Thursday, Goldberg wasted no time invoking the clash with the woman "who you may remember from her, let's say, surprising appearance at a White House party last November."

When Wednesday's broadcast was over, Goldberg said, "I was told that she thought I hit her. So I went up to her and I told her that she KNEW I didn't hit her. And yeah, you know how I said it: choice words."

Hearing this, the studio audience at "The View" burst into cheers and applause.

"And I make no apology for my choice words," she added.

Then Salahi's husband, Tareq, had begun filming the squabble with his cell phone, Goldberg said.

"Needless to say, I really went off, then. And there was even more, choicer words. I mean, they were so choice you could have cut 'em with a knife and eaten them."

"I never said 'You hit me,'" Salahi insisted on "Today." "I said, 'You touched, grabbed my arm.'"

"I didn't do anything. I went as a guest and I was proud to be there."

Gifford and Kotb pressed Salahi on the alleged party-crashing episode by Salahi and her husband. She repeated her contention that they had been invited guests.

But after sitting by quietly and more and more impatiently, one of Salahi's co-stars finally spoke up. Mary Schmift Amons complained that "Housewives" was being given short shrift on this "Today" promo appearance in favor of rehashing Salahi's misadventures.

Drug bottles found in Anna Nicole Smith death room

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Drug bottles, a duffel bag full of cash and Anna Nicole Smith's sobbing boyfriend were found in the Florida hotel room where the Playboy model died of an overdose three years ago, a police detective testified Thursday.

Detective Katherine Frank was the first witness to take the stand in the trial of Smith's lawyer-boyfriend, Howard K. Stern, and two doctors who have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to supply the model with vast amounts of powerful opiates and sedatives.

Smith, 39, was found dead in the Hollywood, Fla., room in February 2007.

Frank testified that shortly after her body was found and taken away, Stern fell to his knees in the room and began crying.

"He was visibly shaken with reddened eyes, tears and trembling," Frank said.

The account was elicited by Stern's lawyer, Steve Sadow, who has said Stern was in love with Smith and all his actions were directed at trying to help her.

The detective said a duffel bag found in the room at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel contained more than $8,000 in cash.

Smith's bodyguard Maurice Brighthaupt told police he was owed the money and demanded they hand it over, but they refused, Frank testified.

Brighthaupt was expected to testify Friday.

Under prosecution questioning, pharmacist Olga Kopetman identified multiple prescriptions written by defendant Dr. Khristine Eroshevich, a psychiatrist, to Anna Nicole Smith, Vicky Marshall, which is Smith's real name, and three other names including Stearn, a misspelling of Stern, from 2003 to 2006. They were filled at a pharmacy in Studio City.

Some were for the painkiller Vicodin and anti-anxiety drugs Xanax and Zoloft. Others were for sleep and anti-seizure medications, the pharmacist said.

Stern paid for the drugs, Kopetman testified, with one bill totaling $4,474.

Kopetman and another pharmacist, Emma Avakian, testified that Stern frequently picked up drugs prescribed by Eroshovich, and that they never saw Anna Nicole Smith pick up her own prescriptions, which often included large quantities of drugs with refills available.

Singer Wyclef files to run for Haiti's presidency

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Singer Wyclef Jean officially announced his bid to be president of Haiti to a roaring crowd of supporters on Thursday, thrusting himself into a contentious race to lead an impoverished country reeling from a devastating earthquake.

At one point the hip hop artist-turned-politician bodysurfed on the hands of bandana-waving backers in Haiti's capital and stepped onto a speaker truck to address the crowd of hundreds. Jean had submitted his candidacy papers 10 minutes before the provisional electoral office closed.

"America has Barack Obama and Haiti has Wyclef Jean," shouted Jean, who was born in Haiti but raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. Many in the crowd wore T-shirts distributed by supporters. At times, Jean carried his daughter in his arms.

"It's a moment in time and in history," the singer told The Associated Press. "It's very emotional."

The former Fugees frontman enters a highly competitive and crowded race for a difficult and dangerous job. Only one person has completed a democratically elected 5-year term in Haiti's history—current President Rene Preval—who is poised to do it again and hand it off to an elected successor.

The winner of the Nov. 28 general elections inherits a destroyed capital, 1.6 million homeless people and countless groups fighting over billions of dollars in international reconstruction funds pledged after a January earthquake that killed an estimated 300,000 people.

Jean originally planned to join the coalition of Pierre Eric Jean-Jacques, former Chamber of Deputies leader. But he switched at the last minute to Jean-Jacques' brother's party to make room for government planner Leslie Voltaire in Jean-Jaques' coalition.

AP

Haitian-born singer Wyclef Jean, center, greets supporters from the top of a vehicle after submitting the paperwork to run for president of Haiti in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010.

The switch is not expected to affect Jean's chances.

If Jean's candidacy is approved, he will face several candidates who lack his international fame but have more political clout. Among the most formidable is ousted ex-Prime Minister Jacques-Edouard Alexis, who secured the backing of President Rene Preval's powerful Unity party this week. Preval is barred from running by the constitution.

An eight-member board reviews would-be candidates and verifies whether they meet all the constitutional requirements, including having lived in Haiti for five consecutive years leading up to the election and never having held foreign citizenship. The list of official candidates will be published Aug. 17.

Yoko Ono opposes parole for John Lennon's killer

Ono

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Three decades after John Lennon's death, Yoko Ono says she opposes parole for his killer because he remains a potential threat.

Ono says she was trying to be "practical" in asking that Mark David Chapman remain behind bars for fatally shooting the pop legend on Dec. 8, 1980, outside Lennon's Manhattan apartment building.

Chapman, who has been repeatedly denied parole, is up for review again this month.

Lennon's widow says Chapman might be a danger to her, other family members and perhaps even Chapman himself.

Ono made her remarks at a meeting Thursday of the Television Critics Association. She was discussing a new PBS documentary on Lennon's life in New York in the 1970s that is scheduled to air this winter.

The former Beatle would have been 70 in October.

Brando's 1973 Oscar stand-in recounts fallout

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Sacheen Littlefeather says she paid a price when she decried Hollywood's stereotyped portrayal of American Indians at the 1973 Oscars.

Littlefeather, who was sent by Marlon Brando to decline his best-actor award for "The Godfather," says her high-profile advocacy put her life at risk and cut her acting career short.

She says when she visited Brando after the ceremony, bullets were fired at his front door. No one was injured.

Littlefeather, who went on to appear in just a handful of films, also claims the U.S. government encouraged the entertainment industry to avoid hiring her as part of its effort to quash American Indian activism.

She spoke Thursday during a presentation to TV critics on "Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian," a documentary airing in November on the "Independent Lens" series.

AP

Activist and actress Sacheen Littlefeather, a subject of the PBS special "Reel Injun," takes part in a panel discussion about the show at the PBS Television Critics Association summer press tour in Beverly Hills, Calif., Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010.

Pink Floyd anthem rewritten for young Iranians

NEW YORK (AP)—The Pink Floyd rock music classic "Another Brick in the Wall" has been transformed by a Canadian band to reflect dissent young Iranians have for their government.

The song replaces the teacher reference with "Hey, Ayatollah, leave those kids alone!" It's performed by a Toronto-based rock band fronted by two Iranian brothers called Blurred Vision. It's been seen by more than 160,000 viewers on YouTube.

Pink Floyd founder Roger Waters gave Blurred Vision permission to use the song. Proceeds will go to Amnesty International.

The Blurred Vision version of the song expresses discord between young people and the government of Iran, where it's illegal to play rock music.

Waters will begin his tour of "The Wall" in Toronto on Sept. 15. "Another Brick in the Wall" is from that classic 1979 album.

AP

In this May 27, 2010 file photo, British musician Roger Waters, who is one of the founding members of 'Pink Floyd', poses for photographs backdropped by Hyde Park before speaking about his forthcoming 'The Wall' European tour at a news conference in London.

Rosie O'Donnell gets daytime TV on Oprah's channel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rosie O'Donnell is returning to daytime TV with a talk show on Oprah Winfrey's new network.

O'Donnell

Winfrey announced the show Thursday, calling O'Donnell a true original who brings passion to everything she does.

O'Donnell hosted a syndicated series, "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" from 1996 to 2002 and won six Emmy Awards for it.

The OWN network says viewers can expect "a fun, uplifting show with Ms. O'Donnell's playful and energetic style."

O'Donnell told The Associated Press in March that she was planning an uplifting talk show that would make a difference in people's lives and build on what Winfrey has done with her show.

O'Donnell joined ABC's daytime talk show "The View" in 2006, but left after a tumultuous season that included a feud with Donald Trump and prickly exchanges with some of her co-hosts, along with higher ratings.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Prince Albert of Monaco visits the King of Rock

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Prince Albert of Monaco and his fiancee visited the home of the "King of Rock 'N' Roll" and sampled some barbecue during a vacation stop in Memphis. The couple took a tour Thursday of Graceland, the 38-room mansion where Elvis Presley died in 1977 and is buried. The prince says he always wanted to visit Graceland and calls Elvis an "extraordinary figure." He says: "Elvis touched our lives as well and the lives of so many people. We wanted to pay our respects and see what this place was all about." Prince Albert and fiancee Charlene Wittstock are on a vacation tour of the United States. They came just before "Elvis Week," a series of events to mark the anniversary of Presley's death on Aug. 16.

Ala. native Courtney Cox to do beach spot

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Birmingham, Ala.-born actress Courteney Cox will do an ad touting the state's beaches that were hit by oil from the Gulf spill. Lee Sentell, director of the Alabama Tourism Department, said Thursday that the 46-year-old former "Friends" star will make a public service announcement once she completes her latest film project, "Scream 4." She is starring in ABC's "Cougar Town," for which she earned a Golden Globe nomination. Sentell says the plan is for the actress to share memories of going to Gulf Shores. Sentell says the spot is expected to air after Alabama beaches are deemed completely clear of oil from the BP spill and before next spring. He says by next spring, beach ads won't mention oil.

Ike Turner focus of weekend celebration in Miss.

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Rock icon Ike Turner is about to get recognition in his Mississippi hometown nearly three years after his death. This weekend in Clarksdale, officials and music fans will gather to unveil two markers honoring Turner and his musical legacy. The unveilings coincide with the 23rd annual Sunflower River Blues and Gospel Festival, dedicated this year to "Rocket 88," the 1951 Turner tune often cited as the first rock 'n' roll song. Blues trail research director Jim O'Neal says Turner is one of the most important figures in American music, though his legacy is often overshadowed by the turbulent years of the Ike and Tina Turner Revue in the 60s and 70s. A crowd of 25,000 is expected at the festival that starts Friday and features performances by dozens of acts.

NY writer pleads not guilty to labor charge

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York writer has pleaded not guilty in an alleged scheme to lure young women from overseas into forced labor. Joseph Yannai of Pound Ridge entered the plea Thursday in federal court in Brooklyn. He'll remain in jail pending an Aug. 9 bail hearing. The 66-year-old Yannai wrote a reference guide to the world's top chefs called "The International Who's Who of Chefs 2004-2005." Federal prosecutors allege he used au pair websites to try convince his victims that he was in the publishing business and looking for an assistant. He also is facing similar state charges, including labor trafficking and sexual abuse of women from Hungary, France and Brazil. If convicted in the federal case, he could be sentenced to life in prison and lose his home.

Richard Price to publish next novel under pen name

NEW YORK (AP)—Richard Price doesn't have a title yet for his next novel, but he does have a name for the author. And it isn't Richard Price. The author of "Clockers" and "Freedomland" will publish under the name Jay Morris for a planned series of detective thrillers set in New York City. Publisher Henry Holt and Company announced Thursday that the first book is scheduled for fall 2011. Pseudonyms are a publishing tradition, a well-used sleight of hand, whether Nora Roberts writing some books as J.D. Robb or Ruth Rendell at times calling herself Barbara Vine. Price says in a statement: "This, God save me, should be fun."

Girl is held hostage when stepsister comes to stay

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: When my stepsister, "Skye," stays here every other weekend, I not only have to share my room with her, but I'm also expected to spend all my time with her. We're both 15. I have nothing against her, but she's not someone I would choose as a friend.

It's a small room for two people. It means I can't have friends over every other weekend, and I'm also not allowed to spend the night at a friend's or do anything with them without taking her along. She's usually not invited, so I'm stuck staying home with her.

Abby, Skye is supposed to be here visiting her father (my stepfather), but he's usually out playing golf or fishing, and I have to be home with her and feel like I'm her baby sitter. Please tell me what you think.

FED UP IN EUGENE, ORE.

DEAR FED UP: I'm glad you asked. This is something you should discuss with your mother. But please consider that as uncomfortable as this is for you, imagine how your stepsister must feel. Skye is stuck every other weekend in a small room with someone who resents her because she'd rather entertain her friends. Add to that the fact that Skye has a father who shows no interest in spending special time with her, and would rather be with his buddies or alone amusing himself with his hobbies.

Frankly, I feel sorry for both you and your stepsister. You're being treated like her unpaid baby sitter, and she's no baby. And she is being treated like a burden to everyone.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I recently received a wedding invitation from my cousin, who is marrying a woman with two children from a previous marriage. Photos of all of them were included in the invitation.

In addition to the typical registry items (housewares, kitchen gadgets, etc.), I was surprised to see a number of items for the children, including bedding, games, toys and clothing. Is this typical for couples with children who marry, or is this an abuse of the registry?

PERPLEXED IN UTAH

DEAR PERPLEXED: An abuse of the registry? When a couple is being married, they register for items they think they will need as they start life together. Loving friends and family try to give them what they request, to the extent they are financially able to do so. Your cousin and his bride-to-be may prefer new items for the children to yet another coffee pot, toaster or piece of china. If that offends you, give them something else. The registry is a guideline; it's not cast in stone.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Once a week I meet with three friends at a coffee shop/restaurant. We sit for at least an hour chatting and catching up about our families. I'm the only one in the group who orders anything, and it's usually just a beverage. It makes me uncomfortable that no one else orders and we take up the table for an hour. This has gone on for a while, and I have not found a way to say anything. Can you help?

FRIEND IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR FRIEND: If the owner or manager of the place objected to the fact that you are taking up the table, something would have been said by now, or a notice would have been printed stating that customers must place a minimum order per person. However, because you feel awkward being the only person having something, tell your friends how you feel and that you'd feel more comfortable if they ordered something, too.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

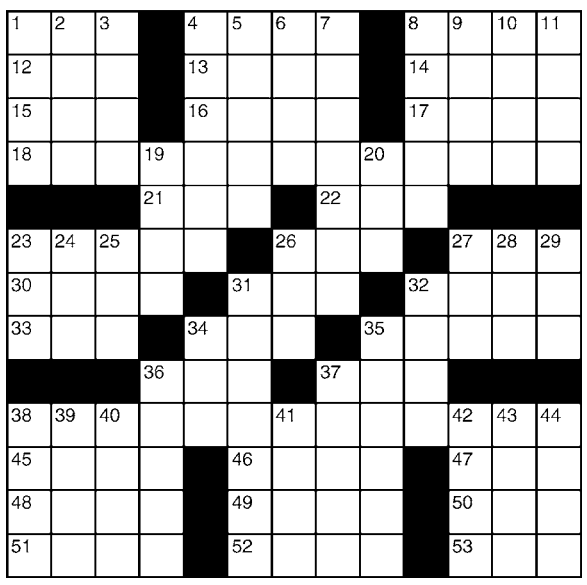
ACROSS
1 Shade source
4 Overly proper one
8 Weather-vane figure
12 Festive
13 Pro —
14 Gumbo ingredient
15 Melody
16 Mother of Don Juan
17 Carriage
18 Works slowly
21 Somewhere out there
22 Purchase
23 One-eighty
26 Occupation
27 Spot on a domino
30 Mexican money
31 Greek consonants
32 "And so the poor dog had —"
33 Vast expanse
34 Throttle
35 Fragrant wood
36 Pen name
37 Tier
38 Does something sneaky
45 Largest of the seven
46 Resign
47 Press for payment
48 Agts.
49 — Major
50 Peculiar
51 Formerly, formerly
52 Spuds' buds
53 They're between dos and mis

DOWN
1 "Zounds!"
2 Den
3 "— Breckinridge"
4 Pen
5 Wouldn't shut up
6 Calif.-to-Fla. highway
7 Garden pavilions
8 Snug and warm
9 "Grapes of Wrath" persona
10 Algonquian tongue
11 German philosopher
19 Sandwich on pita
20 Long lunch?
23 High points
24 Ball-bearing item
25 Neighbor of Can.
26 Moonshine holder
27 Spacecraft compartment
28 — jiffy
29 Apiece
31 Rhesus monkey
32 Salamander
34 Dogfaces
35 Sportscaster Bob
36 Explosion
37 Poker ploy
38 Rid of rind
39 Addict
40 Tools of osculation
41 Rage
42 Stench
43 Undraped
44 Tackles' teammates

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	A	S		L	E	G		P	E	N	A	L
A	N	T		A	L	E		A	G	A	P	E
D	N	A		K	I	N	G	C	O	B	R	A
M	E	G		E	X	U	L	T				
A	X	E	S		I	S	A		B	O	A	T
			C	A	R		M	Y	R	T	L	E
A	P	E	R	S			E	A	T	I	N	
D	A	M	A	S	K		G	N	U			
D	R	U	M		N	A	R		N	A	P	E
				K	O	R	E	A		R	E	V
Q	U	E	E	N	B	E	E	S		I	C	E
E	M	O	T	E		A	C	H		S	A	N
D	A	N	C	E		S	E	E		E	N	T

Yesterday's answer 8-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Charlize Theron, 35; David Duchovny, 50; Wayne Knight, 55; Garrison Keillor, 68

Happy Birthday: Money may be a challenge if you are too generous. You need to draw the line, set up a tight budget and work hard. This year, much will depend on what and who you know, so networking will get you in the door and on your way to a better future. Patience and practicality will be your best friend. Your numbers are 5, 17, 20, 29, 33, 38, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Do what needs to be done around home before you start getting complaints. It's all about keeping things simple right now, in order to avoid arguments, setbacks or anything else that could go wrong. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Question what you spend your money on and avoid snap decisions that might trap you in a difficult situation. Use your head so you don't underestimate a situation that is playing on your emotions. Offer suggestions, not cash or time. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't give in to someone trying to get you to put money into something about which you are unsure. Focus on things that will make you look and feel good. Socializing and networking should be your prime goals. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't get all worked up over nothing. Your emotions will be difficult to control and your only out will be a hobby or an outside interest. Don't try to sort out any romantic or personal problem until you feel calmer. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Plan your day to include friends or your lover. Change is apparent and will take you in a new direction personally and physically. You can change the way you think, view life and move forward in the future. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Looking back will help you move forward. Your interaction with others will help you realize how lucky you are. Uncertainty surrounding finances will only stabilize if you avoid impulse purchases. A mistake made in the past can be avoided this time. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You will end up in a tight spot if you are critical or point the finger at someone. This is not the time to start a feud or to overdo, overspend or overreact. Negativity will only bring you poor results. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put your ideas, talent and projects out on display. The feedback you get will help you decide which way to go. Don't overreact to criticism. What's said will be valid and can help you. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Get things done at home or work on a project that will help you get ahead professionally. Love is in the stars and taking time out to play will spark new ideas and boost your ego. Entertain at home. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't live in the past or dwell on things you cannot change. Stay away from people you have problems with and avoid any sort of awkward conversation that could leave you with extra responsibilities. Discuss your intentions with the one you love. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Consider what you need to do to make your financial situation better. Good fortune is heading in your direction and you should help it along in any way you can. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): It's time to discuss your future plans and to get to the bottom of a situation that has left you in personal limbo. Get out and meet people or take up a new interest that leads to alternatives you hadn't considered in the past. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, caring and generous. You are a traditionalist and gravitate toward what you feel is safe and secure and will enable you to build a solid future.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5				7				1
			4		5			
3								6
	9			2			5	
7			9	1	6			3
	6			4			2	
1								4
			1		3			
6				9				8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	8	3	4	7	9	1	5
4	7	9	8	1	5	6	3	2
5	1	3	2	9	6	4	8	7
9	5	6	7	3	4	1	2	8
1	4	7	5	8	2	3	9	6
3	8	2	1	6	9	7	5	4
8	2	4	9	7	3	5	6	1
6	9	1	4	5	8	2	7	3
7	3	5	6	2	1	8	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TURTLES — Solution: 9 letters

P	T	C	O	D	L	R	O	W	S	F	L	O	A	T
G	L	R	R	P	O	C	E	H	E	L	S	P	R	C
N	S	A	M	A	E	O	I	P	E	E	N	E	T	O
I	H	A	S	A	W	E	W	H	T	E	D	T	A	A
T	W	S	N	T	L	L	S	F	E	I	E	S	I	S
S	O	E	P	D	R	S	T	R	L	A	L	K	L	T
E	L	G	S	E	E	O	G	S	L	A	D	E	A	A
N	L	G	N	T	C	A	N	L	N	O	T	S	R	L
E	A	S	U	I	Q	I	I	S	P	O	T	T	E	D
X	H	C	W	U	P	B	E	A	C	H	O	X	H	E
T	S	S	A	A	S	P	D	S	A	I	O	G	T	V
I	M	T	R	K	T	D	A	T	O	T	S	A	A	I
N	I	R	W	A	L	E	C	N	I	F	N	E	E	L
C	E	A	A	E	M	H	R	C	S	K	T	S	L	O
T	H	S	I	F	Y	L	L	E	J	E	R	O	H	S

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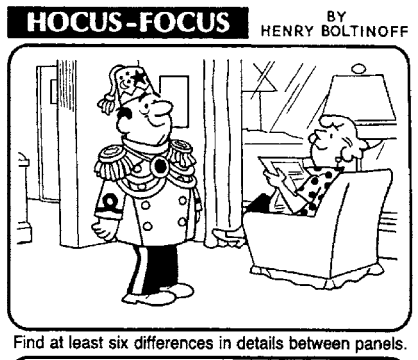
Aquatic, Beach, Coastal, Crawl, Eggs, Exotic, Extinct, Farm, Flat, Float, Green, Hard, Hatch, Hawksbill, Heads, Jellyfish, Lagoon, Lake, Leather, Marsh, Nesting, Ocean, Olive, Paddle, Pets, Plastron, Reptile, Sand, Scutes, Seas, Shallow, Shell, Shields, Shore, Slider, Snapping, Soft, Species, Spotted, Swamp, Tail, Tank, Terrapin, Water, Weeds, Wood, World

Yesterday's Answer: Exile

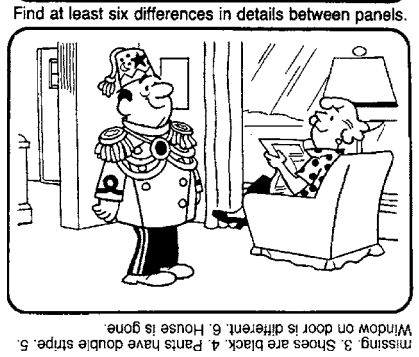
The **NEW Treasury 9** can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume. $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com. (contains 130 puzzles, 33 of which are the larger 20 x 20 size)

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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missing. 3. Shoes are black. 4. Pants have double stripe. 5. Window on door is different. 6. House is gone.

Wishing Well®

5	7	8	2	8	6	8	4	6	4	8	2	8
S	A	E	L	S	L	P	A	I	S	E	I	X
6	2	6	8	4	6	5	4	2	7	2	6	2
F	F	E	P	K	I	T	F	E	R	I	S	M
5	6	5	7	4	7	6	8	2	7	5	4	6
A	N	B	A	O	D	O	E	P	I	L	R	T
4	8	4	3	4	2	5	2	6	5	8	3	5
A	R	D	S	V	R	E	O	B	F	I	H	A
3	4	5	8	6	3	7	6	4	7	8	3	5
A	I	M	E	O	R	A	R	C	N	N	E	I
2	5	8	5	6	7	2	6	2	8	6	5	4
V	L	C	Y	I	T	E	N	S	E	G	L	E
5	3	7	5	7	5	7	3	7	3	7	3	3
I	I	S	F	M	E	I	D	L	E	E	A	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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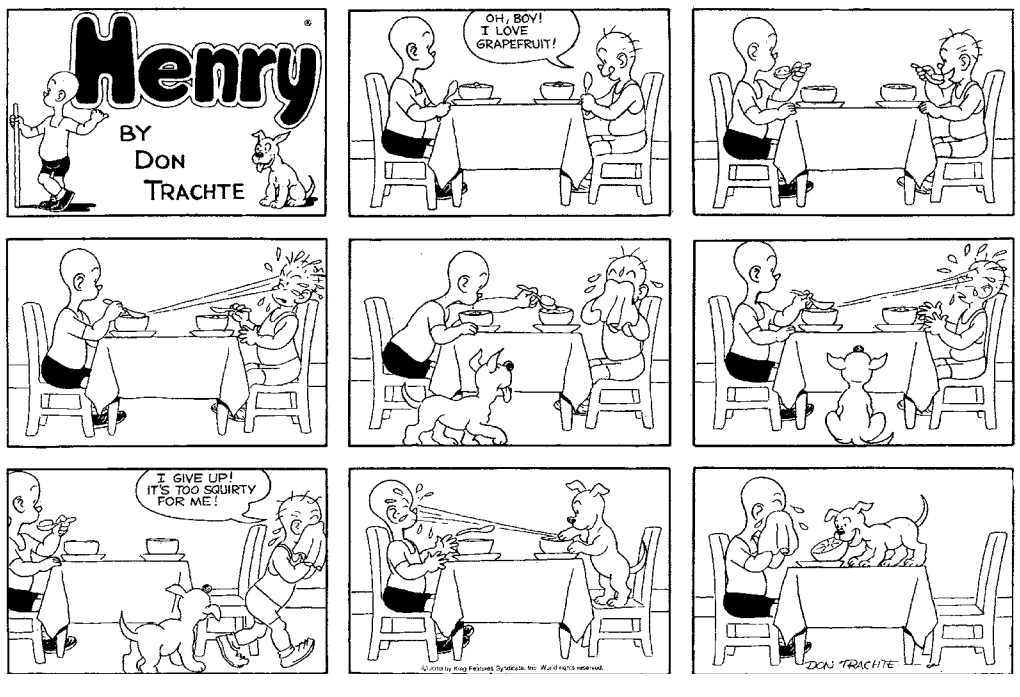
They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto



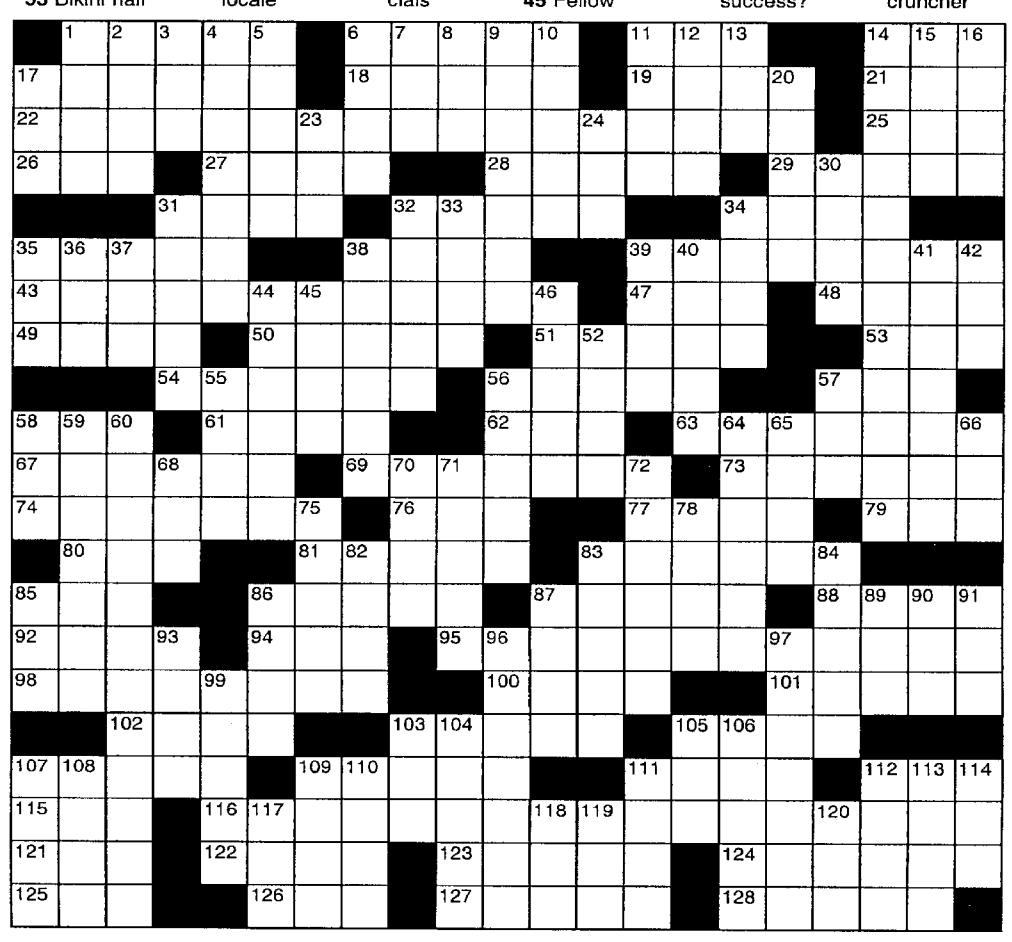
Super Crossword NEW YORK

ACROSS

1 — France
6 Literary genre
11 One of the Bushes
14 Unrefined
17 Chemical compound
18 More advanced
19 Basilica area
21 Paleozoic —
22 RYE
25 New Jersey fort
26 Where the buoys are
27 Article
28 To the point
29 Lightheaded
31 High-pitched instrument
32 Detective Vance
34 Delhi wrap
35 Mrs. Kramden
38 Zip, to Zola
39 Cyd of "Silk Stockings"
43 HARRISON
47 "— Doll" ('64 hit)
48 Food fish
49 Chaplin prop
50 Come up again
51 Go
53 Bikini half
54 Gratitude
56 One of the Hobbits
57 Murcia Mrs.
58 Wine word
61 Concerning
62 — -tzu
63 "The Godfather" director
67 TV's "Ensign —"
69 Downfall
73 Warmed up
74 Infant
76 Caustic stuff
77 Soprano Dal Monte
79 "Waking — Devine" ('98 film)
80 Slugger's stat
81 Let up
83 Coarse
85 Year, in Yucatan
86 "The Merry Widow" composer
87 Tendon
88 Composer Nino
92 "Martha the Mouth"
94 Altar answer
95 BUFFALO
98 Barge
100 All nerves
101 Public
102 Susa's locale
103 Actress Moorehead
105 Lot size
107 Symbol
109 Fancy fiddle
111 Like molasses
112 Wee one
115 Blazer part
116 ROCHESTER
121 — bind
122 Balder's dad
123 Willowy
124 '59 Marty Robbins hit
125 Cariou or Deighton
126 Prone
127 Stand out in the crowd
128 Use rollerblades

DOWN

1 Acknowledgment phrase
2 "Damn Yankees" siren
3 RCA competitor
4 Unit of loudness
5 Melpomene's sister
6 Believe
7 "Treasure Island" monogram
8 Commercials
9 Rendezvous
10 Synthetic fiber
11 Pantry stock
12 Duel tool
13 Youth org.
14 AUBURN
15 Parched
16 Like some buildup
17 Drivers' lics., e.g.
20 Painter Degas
23 Peg for Palmer
24 Buddy
30 Author Murdoch
31 Mid-size band
32 Devout
33 "Mein —" ("Cabaret" tune)
34 Wise guy?
35 Easy as —
36 Massari or Thompson
37 Singer Janis
38 Calculate
39 Seashore sidler
40 Devastation
41 Universally liked one?
42 Author LeShan
44 Pencil topper
45 Fellow
46 Inventor Howe
52 "The Time Machine" people
55 Sign of sanctity
56 Run in the wash
57 Mineral spring
58 Offspring
59 Likely to last?
60 TROY
64 Canada's capital
65 Crooner Collins
66 Find the sum
68 Ben — -Wan Kenobi
70 Lohengrin's love
71 Powers' portrayer
72 Cheap
75 "I — vacation!"
78 Carry out orders
82 "Cat on — Tin Roof"
83 '39 Wimbledon winner
84 Transmission setting
85 Pound sound
86 A roaring success?
87 Mean Marquis
89 Cockney's abode
90 Pitch
91 Cockpit fig.
93 Raison d' —
96 Woodstock performer
97 Connecticut city
99 It's played with a plectrum
103 Exist
104 Crystal of country
105 Pie — mode
106 Prepares pears
107 Sheep's shaker
108 Sarah — Jewett
109 Cut a cuticle
110 Nomad pad
111 Cartoonist Silverstein
112 "L' —, c'est moi"
113 — majesty
114 To and —
117 Periodontists' org.
118 Catchall abbr.
119 — Guevara
120 No. cruncher



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ADVERTISING: What product did Tony the Tiger sell in advertisements?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the highest waterfall in the world?
3. LANGUAGE: Who coined the phrase "wild-goose chase"?
4. BIBLE: Which book of the Bible contains the longest name mentioned – "Mahershalalhashbaz"?
5. MOVIES: What was the name of the male lead character in "Love Story" (played by Ryan O'Neal)?
6. ANATOMY: About how long is the human small intestine?
7. TITLES: What is the abbreviated title of a veterinarian?
8. COMICS: What comic-book superhero is sometimes known as "The Caped Crusader"?
9. MEDICAL TERMS: What is a more common name for somnambulism?
10. ASTRONOMY: What are most of Uranus' 27 moons named after?

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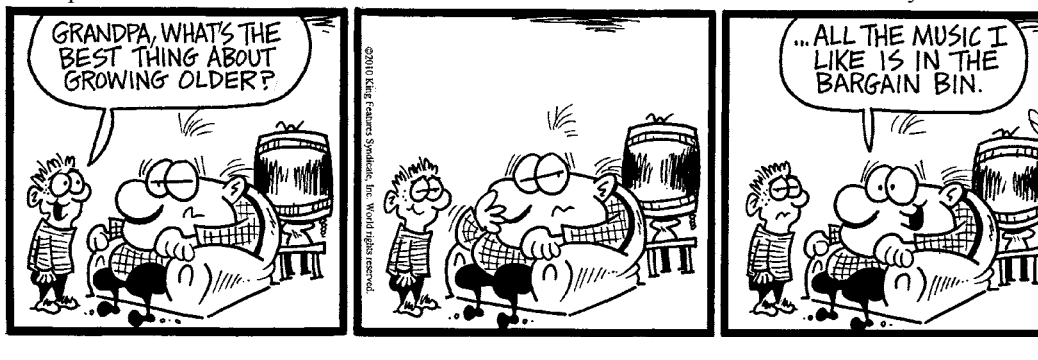
Answers

1. Kellogg's Frosted Flakes
2. Angel Falls in Venezuela
3. Miguel de Cervantes in "Don Quixote"
4. Isaiah 8:1
5. Oliver Barrett
6. 16-20 feet
7. D.V.M. (doctor of veterinary medicine)
8. Batman
9. Sleepwalking
10. Shakespearean characters

Saturday's Answers

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Bad call helps Phils beat Marlins, 5-4

M I A M I (AP)—Carlos Ruiz homered leading off the 10th inning as the Philadelphia Phillies benefited from an umpire's bad call to complete a three-game series sweep of the Florida Marlins with a 5-4 victory Thursday.

A ruling by third base umpire Bob Davidson cost the Marlins a victory in the ninth. Gaby Sanchez pulled a grounder over third base for a hit that would have scored Hanley Ramirez from second base, but Davidson ruled the ball foul.

Marlins manager Edwin Rodriguez argued in vain, and replays showed ball landed inside the line behind the base.

Ruiz, who had a two-run double in the sixth, broke the tie in the 10th with his fifth homer off Will Ohman (0-1).

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Carlos Ruiz (51) is tagged out by Florida Marlins Wes Helms (18) at third base during the fourth inning of a baseball game on Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010, in Miami.

Braves 3, Giants 2

At Atlanta, Eric Hinske snapped a 17-pitch hitless streak with a tiebreaking, sixth-inning home run off San Francisco's Tim Lincecum.

Alex Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in the second inning—his second for Atlanta—for the other runs off Lincecum (11-5).

Jair Jurrjens (4-4) went six innings for the Braves, allowing seven hits, two runs and three walks. Billy Wagner picked up his 26th save with a scoreless ninth.

Lincecum, who had won six of his seven previous starts against Atlanta, gave up six hits and three runs in 6 1-3 innings.

Pirates 5, Rockies 1

At Pittsburgh, James McDonald pitched six shutout innings in his Pittsburgh debut as Colorado lost its seventh straight road game.

Five days after being acquired from the Los Angeles Dodgers, McDonald (1-1) had eight strikeouts—as many as any Pirates starter had all season. He allowed four hits and a walk in his second start of the season and sixth of his career.

Garrett Jones and Ronny Cedeno homered for Pittsburgh, which came in having lost six of its past seven.

Troy Tulowitzki had the lone RBI and three of the Rockies' seven hits—all singles. Colorado had won five of its past six since snapping an eight-game losing streak.

Jones snapped an 0-for-20 stretch by leading off the second against Jeff Francis (4-4) with his team-leading 15th homer.

Diamondbacks 8, Nationals 4

At Phoenix, Kelly Johnson and Adam LaRoche both had three hits as Arizona's Barry Enright overcame two of Washington's four solo homers in six solid innings.

The Diamondbacks struck out 12 times to eclipse 1,000 for the season, offsetting that with 13 hits and Justin Upton's two RBIs to earn a split of the four-game series.

Enright (3-2) gave up solo homers to Adam Kennedy in the third inning and Ryan Zimmerman in the fifth, but little else to earn the win after two tough no-decisions.

Zimmerman added another solo homer off Esmerling Vasquez to follow Roger Bernadina's the inning before, but the Nationals couldn't overcome a shaky start from Ross Detwiler (0-2), who allowed seven runs and nine hits in four innings.

Padres 5, Dodgers 0

At Los Angeles, Kevin Correia and four relievers combined on a shutout as San Diego salvaged a split of the four-game series with Los Angeles.

Correia (8-7) allowed four hits over 5 2-3 innings and did not strike out a batter in his 100th major league start.

Luke Gregerson gave up two two-out singles in the eighth before Heath Bell got the final four outs for his 31st save.

Chad Billingsley (9-6) gave up three runs and seven hits over six innings. He extended his scoreless innings streak to 25 before San Diego grabbed a 3-0 lead in the fourth. Chase Headley and Adrian Gonzalez hit consecutive RBI singles and Tony Gwynn Jr. added a sacrifice fly.

White Sox 6, Tigers 4

At Detroit, Mark Kotsay hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning, then lined a two-run triple in the 11th to send the Chicago White Sox past the Detroit Tigers.

Detroit's Ryan Raburn hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth off Bobby Jenks that made it 4-all.

Sergio Santos (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings for his first major league win. Freddy Garcia pitched 6 2-3 strong innings for the AL Central leaders.

Kotsay's go-ahead triple came off Jose Valverde (1-3). Brent Lillibridge and Andruw Jones hit one-out singles in the 11th before Kotsay's drive into the right-center field gap.

Twins 8, Rays 6

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Jason Kubel's two-out popup hit a catwalk high above Tropicana Field and fell near the pitcher's mound for a go-ahead single in the ninth inning that sent Minnesota past Tampa Bay.

The Rays scored six times in the eighth, capped by pinch-hitter Jason Barlett's grand slam.

Michael Cuddyer added a more conventional RBI single off Joaquin Benoit (0-1) later in the Twins' ninth.

Matt Capps (1-0) pitched 1 1-3 innings for the win.

Orioles 5, Angels 4

At Baltimore, Cesar Izturis singled in the winning run in the ninth inning as Baltimore remained unbeaten under new manager Buck Showalter, defeating Los Angeles for a three-game sweep.

Matt Wieters led off the ninth with a double off Francisco Rodriguez (0-3). After pinch-runner Julio Lugo took third on a bunt by Corey Patterson, the Angels packed the drawn-up infield with six players.

Izturis then lined a single up the middle, sparking a wild celebration by the Orioles around first base.

Jason Berken (3-2) got the win despite giving up a three-run, game-tying homer to Torii Hunter in the eighth.

Red Sox 6, Indians 2

At Boston, Daisuke Matsuzaka pitched eight solid innings and Adrian Beltre hit a grand slam to lead Boston past Cleveland.

Matsuzaka (8-3) allowed Shin-Soo Choo Shin-soo 14th homer of the season in the first but gave up just four more hits and never faced more than four batters in any inning.

Beltre connected for his 20th homer in the fourth inning after Josh Tomlin (1-1) retired Boston's first 10 batters. Beltre took over the team's RBI lead with 75.

Jonathan Papelbon got his 26th save in 31 opportunities when he struck out Trevor Crowe with the bases loaded for the final out.

Rangers 6, Mariners 0

At Seattle, David Murphy hit his second go-ahead home run in two nights and Tommy Hunter resumed his excellence as Texas blanked Seattle.

Murphy drove in the game's first two runs with his seventh homer of the season in the sixth. Hunter (9-1) pitched 6 2-3 scoreless innings against the worst offensive team in the major leagues to up the Rangers' lead in the AL West to a season high-tying 8 1/2 games over the idle Athletics.

Felix Hernandez (7-9) lost his fourth consecutive decision—even though his ERA remained steady at 2.94, sixth-lowest in the AL.

Pedro Martinez rejects offers to return to majors

NEW YORK (AP)—Pedro Martinez's phone has been ringing during the last two weeks.

Several major league teams—the three-time Cy Young Award winner won't say which ones—called with offers to pitch. He was flattered by the invitations but turned them all down.

"Very tempting," he said Thursday during an interview with The Associated Press, "but I have already committed to my kids for the rest of the year and going on vacations, and made plans already with the family."

Martinez signed in July 2009 with Philadelphia, his fifth team in a big league career that began in 1992. He went 5-1 with a 3.63 ERA in nine starts down the stretch and reached the World Series for the second time.

"He knows his body," Los Angeles Dodgers manager Joe Torre said. "I think if he felt that he wanted to do it, and that he could do it, that he'd come back if something made sense for him."

The 38-year-old righty has spent most of this summer in the Dominican Republic.

"It feels real good to be able to be at home and get to hug Mom every time you want, see her every time you want," he said. "To be able to go to the baseball field and see your kids playing is really something."

Still, it's been trying in some ways. He called this summer a test for him, adjusting to "a different life."

"I do miss competing, being out there—the atmosphere, I do miss it," he said. "Some other things I don't miss: the media and the pressure of just being asked to do, and being asked questions every day. And actually just the load, six months just working, not being able to stop, not being able to really do anything or behave like a normal person."

He came to New York this week for an event with Gillette, helping promote the company's Ultimate Summer Job Tour. While at home, he finds himself surrounded whenever he goes to watch his 11- and 12-year-olds play ball.

"I get a lot of kids distracted. Sometimes they got to go cover left field, but they're over here talking to me, getting an autograph," he said. "I try to sign as quickly as possible—Go! Go! Go! You've got to go!"

He was pleased Alex Rodriguez hit his 600th home run. Especially, he said, because the New York Yankees star is Dominican-American. Unlike some, he doesn't have any qualms about A-Rod one day making the Hall of Fame. He thinks many of the sluggers under the cloud of actual or alleged steroid use, such as Rodriguez, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, belong in the Hall.

"I think whoever did what they did still deserves, just like Pete Rose. He belongs," Martinez said. "It doesn't matter what he did. He paid his dues already. He should be in the Hall of Fame. Those guys, it's going to take them a while, but sooner or later they're eventually going to make it. I hope they make it."

It's harder for Martinez to evaluate his own chances. He compiled a 219-100 record and a 2.93 ERA in 18 seasons, won five ERA titles and three strikeout crowns.

"I haven't really stopped to see what kind of numbers I have, but I think I have a chance, a legit chance," he said. "Some of the things I've done are really special."

In his hometown of Manoguayabo, a Santo Domingo suburb, he's donated land for a youth baseball field that he'd like to call "Little Fenway" in honor of the Boston Red Sox, his team for seven of his best seasons. He hopes to surround the field with tennis and volleyball courts.

Martinez's foundation is working with poor kids from the community.

"Those are the ones I'm embracing because I was like this, so I'm taking a lot of those kids and being a father to 800, 1000 kids and, hopefully, many more," he said.

Growing up, he didn't have a good field or real equipment.

"The baseball would be a piece of curtain or a piece of clothes or leaves from a tree," he said. "I remember taking my sisters' dolls there and using them as a ball. I'm pretty sure they don't regret it now, but back then it was a big deal," he said.

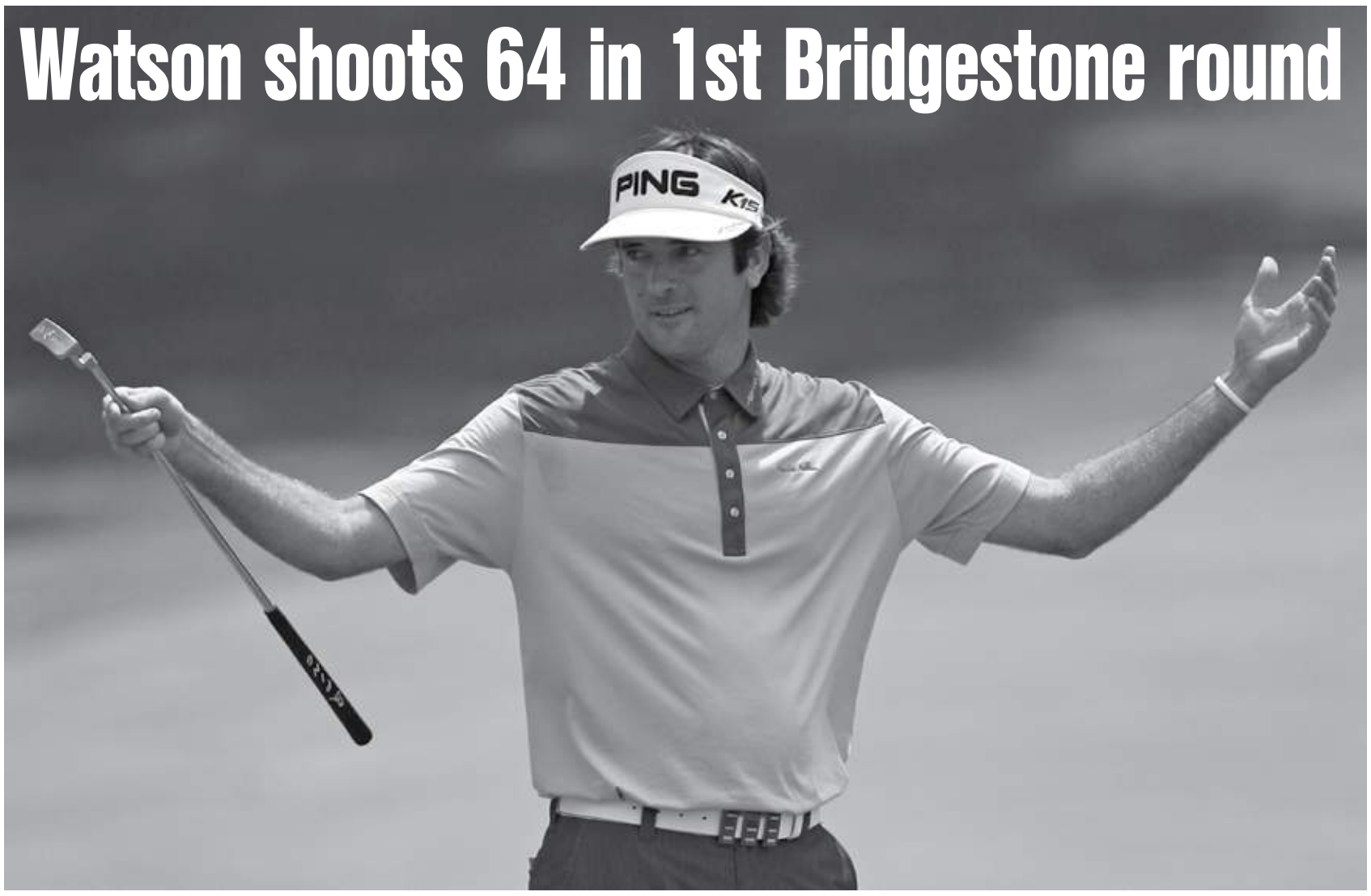
He has a ready smile and a laugh, just like he did in his playing days—except when he was pitching. Martinez had a different personality when he took the mound,

"To me it was a great honor to have 60,000 people just chant my name, in favor or against. It doesn't matter. I made a difference," he said. "I'm not a baseball player when I'm not pitching—I'm a goofball. I'm a normal man. I'll sit on any block."

But, oh, on the mound.

"That's business," he said. "I'm in a jungle, and I consider myself a lion. So I'm going to kill you if I'm hungry. And I was always hungry to win."

Watson shoots 64 in 1st Bridgestone round



AP

Bubba Watson reacts after making a birdie putt on the 18th hole during the first round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club, Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010, in Akron, Ohio.

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Experience is overrated, apparently.

Bubba Watson, playing his first competitive round at venerable Firestone Country Club, shot a 6-under 64 for a two-stroke lead after Thursday's opening round of the Bridgestone Invitational.

In marked contrast, Tiger Woods, who's won seven times at Firestone and considers the Bridgestone almost an annuity, struggled all day and shot a 74, his worst round ever on the course and in the tournament.

"Just because I like the course doesn't mean I'm going to play well on it," said Woods, ahead of only eight others in the 81-player field. "You still have to execute."

Watson sure did. He needed just 22 putts to shoot his lowest first-round score of the year. He arrived at the course on Sunday and got to know the layout before putting up seven birdies and a bogey.

"I knew it was going to be tough, but today I just putted really well, hit good iron shots and made it look a little bit easy," he said.

It was the first time that Watson, who won the Travelers Championship in June for his first PGA Tour victory, has led a tournament after the opening round.

He rolled in a 35-footer from the apron in front of the 18th hole to cap his round.

"I'm just freewheeling it, just having fun," he said.

Watson was coming off a couple of weeks partly spent with family members at a lake house in North Carolina. It's been an emotional summer for the clan, with Watson's father battling throat cancer. Watson broke down on the 18th green at the Travelers after winning when he thought of his father.

"My dad is a Vietnam vet, Special Forces Green Beret, but he's a teddy bear now as he gets older," Watson said. "He's changed a lot, and as a whole family we've changed a lot."

Phil Mickelson, Kenny Perry, Adam Scott and Graeme McDowell were all at 66, with Chad Campbell, Sean O'Hair, Jeff Overton, Bo Van Pelt and Retief Goosen at 67.

Mickelson was paired with rising star Rory McIlroy and the two ambled around the course as if it were a Tuesday morning practice round. McIlroy shot a solid 68 and Mickelson, after playing his first 10 holes in 1 over, birdied five of the last eight.

On his 15th hole, he missed the green right and was faced with a difficult flop shot. When he saw the lie, he was just hoping to make par.

"Not only did I get it up and down, but I made a nice birdie and was able to get two more coming in," he said.

Perry is an old hand at Firestone, where he's only broken the top 10 once in the last seven years. He used a unique approach to put his name near the top of the leaderboard.

"I don't really have a lot of success here," he said. "The golf course has usually beat me up pretty good. I took a little bit different strategy. My oldest daughter told me she was pregnant on Sunday. I'm going to be a granddad, so I stayed home. I didn't fly in here until late Wednesday and I just teed it up today."

Scott forged a bogey-free 66, thanks in part to some stellar scrambling and a new crosshanded grip while putting.

"I was struggling the other way, and I think technically it's a good stroke for me," he said.

McDowell, who captured the U.S. Open last month at Pebble Beach, closed out with a flourish, birdieing the final four holes.

"It's probably the best golf I've played since Pebble," said the native of Northern Ireland, who tied for 23rd at the British Open three weeks ago. "I've been a bit under the radar this week."

The field in the no-cut event includes the top 50 players in the world. Everyone was shocked at what happened to the guy who's No. 1.

Woods, coming off a two-week break since tying with McDowell for 23rd at St. Andrews, professed himself to be ready to defend his Bridgestone title on Wednesday. But then he went out and bogeyed the first two holes and never really got going. It got so bad that when he finally rolled in his second birdie of the day on a 7-footer at the 17th hole, he bowed and tipped his cap in two directions to cheers from the gallery.

Moments later, as he was walking between the 18th green and the scoring trailer, a young man said loudly to him, "You're washed up, Tiger. Give it up!"

Woods never acknowledged the comment, kept walking, his head down, all the way in to sign his scorecard.

Suns lure Blanks from Cleveland to be GM

PHOENIX (AP)—Lon Babby's first priority after being named president of basketball operations for the Phoenix Suns was to find a top-level talent assessor.

The former big-name sports agent knows the business side of the NBA and wanted someone who could complement his ledger skills by finding the right players to put on the court.

Babby got the man he wanted on Thursday, hiring Lance Blanks as general manager.

Considered one of the league's top up-and-coming executives, Blanks joins the Suns after consecutive five-year runs with two highly successful NBA teams and a short playing career.

"After a thorough search, we believe we have found the perfect choice to serve as our general manager," Babby said. "Lance Blanks is a first-rate talent evaluator, basketball executive and person. We are thrilled that he will be joining the Phoenix Suns."

A first-round pick out of Texas by the Detroit Pistons in 1990, Blanks had an undistinguished playing career. He played 142 games over two seasons with Detroit and Minnesota, then closed out his career with stints in the CBA and overseas.

Blanks, 43, had better luck in the front office, spending five years in the scouting department of the San Antonio Spurs, who won two NBA titles and drafted previously unheralded players Tony Parker and Luis Scola. He spent the past five seasons as vice president of basketball operations and assistant general manager for the Cleveland Cavaliers, who won 66 percent of their games during his tenure.

Blanks will take over a team that has undergone drastic changes since reaching the Western Conference finals last season.

Vice president and general manager Steve Kerr left the team at the end of June to spend more time with family and return to his job as a basketball analyst for TNT. Assistant general manager David Griffin also stepped down after 13 years with the organization.

The roster has gone through upheaval, as well.

Five-time All-Star Amare Stoudemire opted out of the final year of his contract and signed with the New York Knicks. The Suns have tried to replace him by bringing in Hedo Turkoglu, Hakim Warrick and Josh Childress. They also re-signed shooting center Channing Frye.

Phoenix's boldest move of the off-season was hiring Babby, a longtime agent with no background in working in an NBA front office.

Now Blanks gets a chance to pull it all together.

Report: Former Armstrong teammate alleges drug use

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Lance Armstrong's attorney has lashed out at a report that a former teammate of the seven-time Tour de France champion told investigators Armstrong knew of widespread performance-enhancing drug use on the U.S. Postal Service team.

Attorney Bryan D. Daly said there are hundreds of former Armstrong teammates who would deny he broke the rules to win.

The New York Times reported in Thursday editions that a cyclist, who was identified only as a former Armstrong teammate, backed up claims by Floyd Landis that the Postal Service team engaged in systematic doping with Armstrong's knowledge and approval.

The unidentified cyclist told the newspaper he had spoken with federal investigators looking into cheating in pro cycling. Prosecutors and special agent Jeff Novitzky of the Food and Drug Administration are running the probe, which is focused on a sport that Armstrong once dominated with consecutive Tour victories from 1999-2005.

Armstrong has strongly denied any allegations that he doped.

The unidentified cyclist detailed some of his own drug use to investigators, even though he has never tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs or methods, the newspaper reported. He said he has not been called to testify before the grand jury in Los Angeles that has been convened for the case.

Daly released a statement Thursday afternoon saying the report contains "inappropriate leaks designed to create a circus-like atmosphere."

"To the extent that any riders are suggesting that Lance Armstrong violated cycling rules or doped, they are either mistaken or not telling the truth. Lance has ridden with hundreds of riders over the years who will support his position, and over all that time he has never failed even a single test," Daly said.

Thom Mrozek, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles, declined comment about the report and Daly's reaction to it.

Landis, who was stripped of his 2006 Tour title after failing a doping test, recently dropped longtime denials and said he used drugs during the height of his career. He implicated several cyclists, Armstrong among them.

Armstrong's attorneys have said the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency has been trying to broker deals with cyclists who testify or produce evidence against Armstrong. If those riders have used performance-enhancing drugs, they could receive reduced punishment, Armstrong's attorneys have said.

More riders are expected to meet with the grand jury as early as next week, people close to the investigation told The Times.

"We understand that riders may be being offered sweetheart deals to change testimony that they have given in the past, under oath," Daly said. "The power of the federal government is being abused to pursue dated and discredited allegations, and that's flat-out wrong, unethical, un-American, and a waste of taxpayer dollars."

Konflikt KOs Cavite; Mobil whips MIGS

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt pummeled debuting Cavite into submission, 90-76, in the first game of the United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League open division doubleheader Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

The second game, meanwhile, saw SIP-Mobil hang on to a 104-98 victory against a scrappy Ilonggo-Marianas Wireless side.

Konflikt didn't get to break lose early against Cavite as Elmer Esdrelon and company only led, 21-17, after one quarter of play.

That quickly changed in the second canto though, as Esdrelon exploded for 11 markers and forward George Barbo scored all of his seven points to give Konflikt a comfortable 50-38 spread at the break.

Bernard Aquino then took over the offense in the third quarter, as the Hyatt Regency Saipan playmaker unloaded nine points to up Konflikt's advantage to 71-57 heading into the fourth and final quarter.

Veteran gunslinger Bernard Montano tried to rally Cavite back into the thick of things in the payoff period, but his eight points in the period proved too little, too late, as Konflikt cruised to the 14-point win.

Esdrelon and Aquino paced Konflikt, which improved to 2-1, with 21 markers apiece; while Montano and burly forward Francis Rebuyon topscored for Cavite with 16 each.

In the second game, Mobil withstood Marianas Wireless' furious comeback attempt in the payoff period to win the match between debuting teams.

Marvin Rabauliman netted 21 markers to lead four Mobil players in double figures. Tony Diaz fired 12 of his game-high 30 points in the fourth quarter for Marianas Wireless, which also got 19 points from Leo Galarse and 11 from John Jugos.

First Game

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt 90 – Esdrelon 21, Aquino 21, M. Capalad 16, Talania 11, Barbo 7, Berline 5, Fernandez 5, Camacho 2, W. Capalad 2.

Cavite 76 – B. Montano 16, Rebuyon 16, Artates 11, Barrios 9, Wesley 7, Villacrusis 6, Llagas 6, Umali 3, J. Montano 2, Hernandez 1.

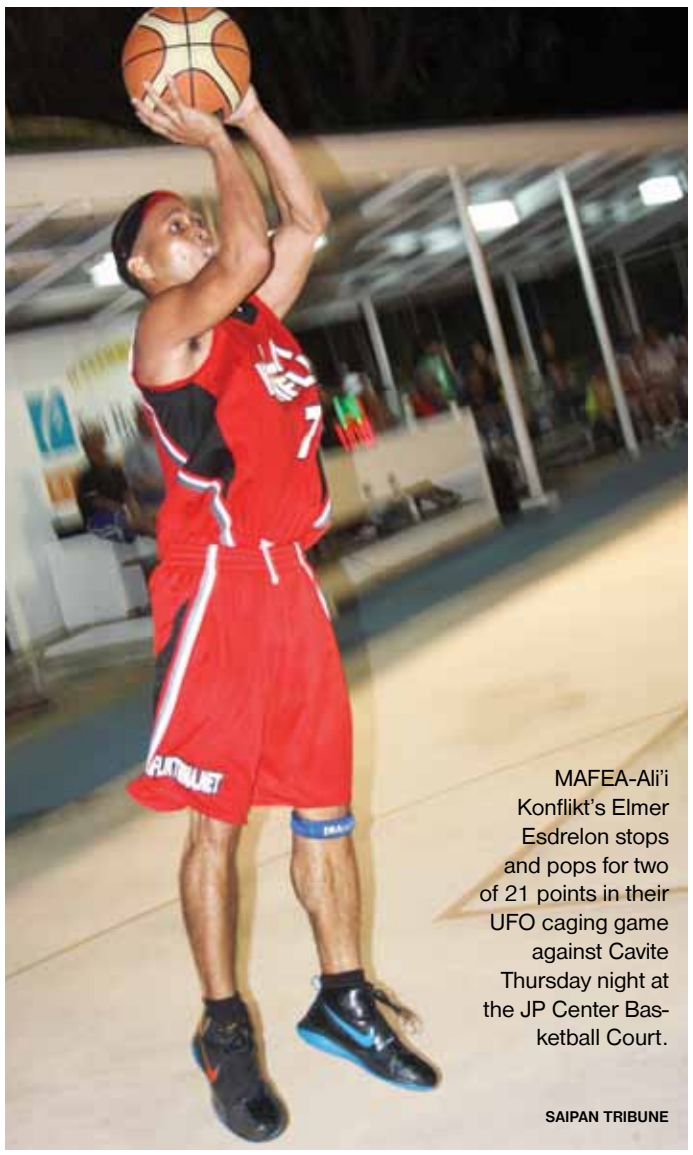
Scoring by quarters: 21-17, 50-38, 71-57, 90-76.

Second Game

SIP-Mobil 104 – Rabauliman 21, Estolas 16, Peredo 13, Gapor 12, Muleta 9, Gamboa 8, Manalo 8, Ruluked 8, De Dios 5, De Guzman 5, Wenceslao 2, Abuan 2.

Ilonggo-Marianas Wireless 98 – T. Diaz 30, Galarse 19, Jugos 11, Banatasa 9, Hernandez 8, E. Diaz 7, Daproza 7, Iglecias 5, Moises 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-13, 53-41, 80-66, 104-98. ***(Saipan Tribune)***



MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt's Elmer Esdrelon stops and pops for two of 21 points in their UFO caging game against Cavite Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Bud Light Dart League starts

The Summer/Fall 2010 season of the Bud Light Dart League began earlier this week with action in four divisions taking place in various sports bar and watering holes on Saipan.

Buddies Black Pearls currently leads the Kingfisher C-Division with a win-loss slate of 11-4. D'Pirates Sang & the Gang and Buddies Chagi Fan are tied in second with identical 10-5 records.

USSP Slow Hands (5-10), D'Pirates Lucky Shots (5-10), and Charlie's Team Sabalu (4-11) make up the rest of the field in the division.

Over in the Chichirika Division, Buddies Kagman-1 hold court with a 11-4 record with Jonny's Night Hawks (9-6), VFW Oh! MG (8-7), and VFW One Shot (7-8) next in the standings. Gaia Gaiana-C (6-9) and Gaia World V (4-11) bring up the rear.

Oleai Erap Snipers (14-3) is two games ahead of TDI Black Stallions (12-5) in the Masters League. The division is also made up of Oleai D'Companeros (11-6), VFW Angry Dragons (9-8), Jonny's Just4Fun (8-9), Buddies Bullshooters (6-11), D'Pirates M-Destroyers (5-12), ad Buddies Red Horse (3-14).

Three teams are deadlocked for the lead in the Tuesday B League, as Tijuana MixBlood Shooters, Buddies MC'Judystar, and Buddies Salbahe Brothers2 all sport 11-4 marks.

Buddies Fantastic, Sande's Naughty Boys, and D'Pirates IDK lost to these three teams and thus are mired with 4-11 records. D'Pirates B. Destroyers and Jonny's Samurai have yet to play a single game in the division.

The Bud Light Dart League is organized by the Saipan Electronic Darts Association and is sponsored by MARPAC and Bud Light. For more information, call league secretary Warlee Ellama at 233-4397. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

QQ Car Rental caging sets orientation today

The much-awaited QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup, sponsored by Pacific Trading Co., is set to kick off on Aug. 21, 2010.

But even before the competition starts, team representatives, coaches, players, and managers are required to attend the league orientation today, Aug. 7, 4pm at the Hard Rock Cafe VIP Room.

So far, 12 teams have signed up for the league, namely Mobil Oil Marianas, Moonlight, Atalig Associates, IT&E, Saimar Pilot, Westerners, Marianas Wireless, Taga Security, Cellpro, Cargo Express, Diamond, and Micronesian Brokers, Inc.

The competition is open to all participants age 21-and-over and all nationalities—locals and tourist—are invited to watch the league's opening ceremony.

Additionally, a $2,000 cash prize, awards, and trophies will be presented to the champion team.

The countdown for registration begins now for all interested basketball teams. The application deadline has been extended Aug. 10 to allow other teams to join. The entrance fee is $400, which is exclusive of the team uniforms.

For more information, contact Rey Perez at 989-8759, Marlon Cabrera at 878-8173, James Hann at 483-8866 or e-mail qqcarrentalcup@yahoo.com to obtain team applications, waivers, and information about the ground rules. ***(Walter Sutherland)***

CNMI

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Though Palau had already taken the No. 1 spot in the medal tally, CNMI chef de mission Michael White said he was proud of what the Commonwealth's athletes have accomplished so far.

"I am very happy with our athletes' performance. Almost all our athletes are meeting and even exceeding expectations and we're looking forward for some further good results in the last few days of the Games," White said.

With the swimming competition concluding Thursday afternoon, the task to give the CNMI more medals was left to the athletics team and the squad responded to the challenge in Day 3 of the tournament.

Coach Elias Rangamar's wards gave the CNMI four gold medals, three silver, and one bronze in the athletics competition Thursday night at the Palau National Track and Field.

Jacque Wonenberg won two gold medals; Yvonne Bennett and Mamiko Oshima-Berger had one each; Nick Gross, Clayton Kenty, and Lia Rangamar collected one silver apiece; and Tyrone Omar notched a bronze.

Table tennis delivered two more gold medals and a silver with Luke Lu winning the men's singles gold against Ramon Gulla of Palau and the former teaming up with Su Yong Dong in beating teammate Steve Lim and Budhi Gurung in the men's doubles finals.

In the ocean swim at the Palau Pacific Resort, the CNMI had a 1-2-3 finish in the men's division with Rezne Wong topping the 5-kilometer race with a time of one hour, 14 minutes and six seconds. Kai Staal was only two seconds behind Wong for the silver medal, while Kensuke Kimura took the bronze after timing in at 1:14:24. Grace Kimball was third in the women's division.

The canoe team gave the CNMI one more bronze medal on Thursday when it finished third in the 500m race.

Spearfishing, triathlon this weekend

Meanwhile two more competitions will kick off this weekend.

Spearfishing will have its individual event today at the Drop Off Point Bar and Grill in Malakal, while the team event will take place Sunday.

Richard Seman said the CNMI spearfishing team, composed of Felix Sasamoto, Morito Asai, Abraham Quitugua, and Derek San Nicolas, are in high spirits and are praying for good weather in the two-day competition.

It was raining hard in Palau yesterday (***see related story***) and if the bad weather continues this weekend, participants in the underwater spearfishing competition will have a tough time.

CNMI triathletes are also hoping for Mother Nature's cooperation, as their event will be held this Sunday.

The swim leg will take place in the waters off Palau Pacific Resort in Koror, while the run and bike races will be in the up and downhill and curve roads going to PPR.

"It will be a short distance race and our athletes should finish between one and one and a half hours, depending on the weather," CNMI triathlon delegation head Joshua Berger said.

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Lia Rangamar was also entered in the 400 hurdles and claimed the silver medal in that event.

Yvonne Bennett started the CNMI's bid for medals in Day 3 and won her heat in the 200m race and less than three hours later won the gold in that event.

It was Bennett's second gold in the competition, as she also topped the 100m race in a record-breaking fashion.

Also getting her second medal in the Games was Mamiko Oshima-Berger, who ruled the 5,000m run. The 40-year-old runner gave the CNMI its first gold in athletics competition when she dominated the 10,000 race last Monday. Oshima-Berger was aiming for her third gold medal last night, as she was entered in the 1,500 run.

Nick Gross, who failed to finish in the Top 5 in his first event—the men's discus, redeemed himself Thursday night after taking home the silver medal in the javelin throw.

Clayton Kenty also made it to the medal board after winning a silver in the men's 400m hurdles, while Tyrone Omar got his second bronze after placing third in the 200m race. Omar won his first bronze in the 100m run.

Reylyn Sapong missed the medal podium when she finished fourth in the 800m run.

Ten more events were scheduled in the last day of the athletics competition Friday night, namely the men's and women's 400m, 1,500m run, 4x400m and 4x100m relays, women's 100m hurdles, and men's 110m hurdles.

BASEBALL

From Page 28

are waiting to see Palau play the defending champion CNMI in the semis. But, we can't do anything about it, August is really where the rainy season here comes," one Palau supporter said.

The CNMI arranged a semis duel against the host team after losing their closely fought match in the last day of the elimination round Thursday night, 5-6.

Palau scored an earned run at the bottom of the seventh inning to foil the CNMI's bid for an upset. Had the CNMI won, it will still face Palau in the semifinals, as the competition format calls for the No. 1 and 2 teams to dispute the first finals seat. The No. 3 and 4 squads will battle for the other finals berth.

The CNMI, Guam, and Kosrae all finished with 3-2 slates, but the former won the tiebreak.

In tennis at the Palau Pacific Resort, the four-man CNMI tennis team had to wait for another day to play in the semifinals.

Bobby Cruz's was set to play teammate Peter Loyola yesterday and tournament director Dan Tinsay said they will reschedule the first semis match today.

The other semis pairing will have Jeff Race battling defending men's singles gold medalist Todd Montgomery.

Basketball was the luckiest sport in yesterday's competition, as games are being played in the indoor court at the Palau National Gymnasium.

The CNMI Women's Nationals, who are the defending champions here, boosted their chances to advance to the playoffs after beating the Marshall Islands. The finals scores were unavailable at press time, but the CNMI won by 20 points and improved to a 2-2 record.

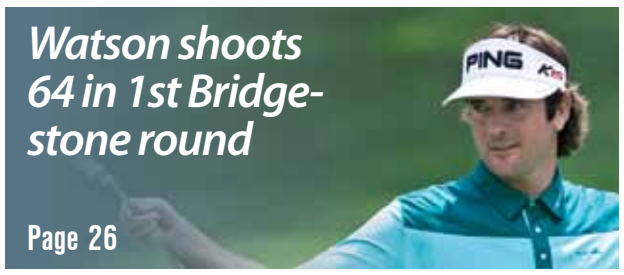
The CNMI cage belles are now in the semifinals and will play Palau today. Guam is ranked first and will duel the winner of the Chuuk-Marshalls tiff in the other semis match.

Coach Bill Sewell's wards won despite having several players nursing the flu.

"It's been raining here the past few days and the girls are getting colds. But there's nothing to worry about, it's just because of the weather," assistant coach Elabi Sewell said.

In the men's division, the CNMI Men's Nationals lost to Marshalls yesterday, 68-87, and dropped to a 2-3 record. The CNMI cagers' chances in advancing to the Final Four is slim with only one game left in the elimination round. The Commonwealth will meet Guam today.

Saipan Tribune
Sports



CNMI surpasses '06 gold-medal haul

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Budhi Gurung, Luke Lu, Steve Lim, and Su Yong Dong, pose for a group photo before playing in the men's doubles finals of the table tennis competition in the 7th Micronesian Games last Thursday afternoon at the Ngarachamayong Cultural Center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

KOROR, Palau—With still four days to go before the 7th Micronesian Games conclude, the CNMI had already eclipsed its gold medal record in the 2006 edition of the quadrennial event.

After Thursday's competition, the medal tally, brought to you by IT&E, showed the CNMI having 35 gold medals, 17 silver, and 17 bronze.

In 2006 when Saipan hosted the Micro Games, the Commonwealth won 34 gold medals, 33 silver, and 31 bronze to finish second behind Guam.

"Tia de Prerii"

Palau also has earned 35 gold medals, but with its 23 silver, and 23 bronze, the host has overtaken the CNMI in the medal standings. Pohnpei is in third with 11 gold, 1 silver, and 13 bronze.

See CNMI on Page 27

Baseball, tennis games rained out

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Palau	35	23	23	81
CNMI	35	17	17	69
Pohnpei	11	11	13	35
Marshalls	10	16	15	41
Guam	9	17	13	39
Chuuk	7	7	7	21
Yap	0	8	10	18
Kosrae	0	0	9	9

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

KOROR, Palau—Mother Nature took its toll on the 7th Micronesian Games yesterday, forcing the cancellation of outdoor games in various venues.

In baseball, the semifinal games at the Asahi Ball Field were called off with the pitch soaked, as it rained hard here all day.

The CNMI was supposed to play Palau in the first semis game at 10am. The Commonwealth sluggers were then told that the match will be rescheduled at 3pm Friday, but the rain did not stop, making the playing condition of the field worse.

"Let us just keep our fingers crossed that the rain will stop so we can play tomorrow," CNMI coach Patrick Tenorio said.

"What a time for this rain to come. The baseball action was heating up and a lot of people

See BASEBALL on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

What used to be packed bleachers at the Asahi Ball Field had only a few spectators waiting for their ride home after the baseball games in the 7th Micronesian Games were cancelled yesterday due to rain.

ROSELYN B.MONROYO

Jacque Wonenberg takes a breather after a grueling race in the women's 400m hurdles Thursday night at the Palau National Track and Field.

4 more gold medals for athletics team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

KOROR, Palau—With the CNMI swimming team heading home, it was the athletics squad's turn to take center stage in the 7th Micronesian Games.

The CNMI tracksters had their best performance so far in the athletics competition Thursday night at the Palau National Track and Field after collecting eight medals.

Of these medals, four were gold, three were silver, and one was bronze.

Jacque Wonenberg notched back-to-back gold medals in Day 3 of the athletics competition. She first won the women's triple jump and then dominated the 400m hurdles.

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